



# DRAGASH MUNICIPAL GUIDELINES





# Dragash Municipal **Guidelines**





# Foreword

Development of Kosovo municipalities is the key to a prosperous Kosovo for all citizens. In Dragash/š we have welcomed the new legal framework (1) which has allowed us to build an advanced local governance system, which involves villages, settlements and urban quarters in the development of our region. Furthermore, we have welcomed the opportunity to involve all citizens, regardless of gender or cultural group, in the planning and development of programmes for improving the provision of basic services as well as initiation of new developments in our region.

Based on our work with communities (2), Dragash/š is proud to publish the **Dragash/š Guidelines for International Cooperation 2011-2013**. These guidelines have been developed as a result of work undertaken at village level, where all communities have been engaged in formulating their ambitions for developing their local community with emphasis on improving living conditions, both in the form of improved working conditions, income generation, environmental conditions, sound utilization of local resources and a better future for all.

I would like to thank UNDP for accompanying us in this process of enabling citizen's direct participation in planning local development. I would like to especially thank the generous commitment of a wide range of people, both from the public and private sectors as well as national and international organizations. Thanks to their confidence and trust in the idea that achieving better living conditions for all communities in Dragash/š is possible, they very generously took the time to contribute to our development ideas and plans.

This document contains both an analysis of the issues, facing development in the Dragash/š region as well as highlights of the potential for economic, social and environmental development of Dragash/š. Our aim has been to present a

number of specific development options to all interested partners and donors, public or private, local, national or international, to allow the partners to select areas where they feel they have a specific contribution to make. In Dragash/š we will welcome all contributions to our future as we work towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Sustainable development is crucial for us in Dragash/š. We need initiatives that will help our region here and now, but will also have an effect in years to come. We need initiatives that will allow us to be self-sufficient in development terms, and to utilize our resources and potentials in a meaningful and sustainable way. Although it faces severe environmental conditions as well as dire poverty levels, Dragash/š is rich in natural resources, and this represents an opportunity for an improved quality of life for its inhabitants.

In Dragash/š we have the opportunity to establish proper land use and a natural resources framework, which will include measures and mechanisms to avoid contamination of our resources. In many countries and regions, economic development has been allowed to overrule environmental and social concerns. In Dragash/š we wish to achieve a balanced development with consideration for all citizens and for the environment. Community participation and international cooperation can help make this a real opportunity.

We are confident that by ensuring the involvement of the local communities as well as national and international expertise, the main development challenges and opportunities in Dragash/š will be tackled in an efficient way, thus ensuring a greater and lasting impact of actions.

I hope this document will inspire all partners to invest in the future of Dragash/š, and again, I thank you all for your interest.

*Salim Jenuzi / Mayor of Dragash/š*

(1) Law on Local Self-Government (Law Nr. 03/L-040, 20 February 2008),  
Law on nature conservation (Nr. 03/L-233 Nov/2010)

(2) Law on Gender Equality in Kosovo (Law Nr. 2004/2),  
Dragash/š Spatial Analysis (2006),  
Dragash/š Municipal Development Agenda (2004-2006),  
Local Economic Development Strategy (2007-2011)  
Preliminary data gathered for the elaboration of the Municipal Development Plan (2012-2022).

# Forewords UNDP

UNDP ART GOLD Kosovo in synergy with UNDP Dragash Sustainable Development Project (UNDP AGK-SDP) aim to support Dragash municipality in achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by focusing on: Good governance, Environment, Local Economic Development, Social Welfare, Education and Health, and Gender Equality.

The UNDP Dragash Project “Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use management” pursues the objective of moving forward to achieving the MDGs, through a specific angle of conservation of biodiversity, spatial and environmental planning, local economic development, sustainable energy strategy and capacity building of local and national actors to use the instruments and framework required for sustainable development.

The UNDP ART Initiative (Articulation of Territorial and Thematic Networks of Cooperation for Human Development) is a global initiative championed by UNDP. It supports and promotes the implementation of an operational, administrative and programmatic framework facilitating the articulation between different international cooperation actors interested in supporting the countries’ human development processes.

Art methodology has provided relevant added value to the UNDP “Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use management” project by supporting good governance practices that contribute to build the sustainable development framework.

In line with the work that is being done to draft the Municipal Development Plan (2012-2022), the Municipality, supported by UNDP AGK-SDP, has completed a participatory planning cycle in five villages (Restelica, Brod, Bellobrad, Blac and Brrut). This exercise has been conducted during a four month period

with Local Working Groups and the Municipal Working Groups. The working groups comprise a multisectoral structure (health, education, environment, agriculture, business, culture, NGOs and local administration, among others).

The preliminary results of the participatory planning cycle is comprised in the present document, “Dragash Municipality Guidelines for International Cooperation 2011-2013”, which is based on the identification of the main strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the municipality and of the five villages, and defines the main areas where the contribution of International Cooperation partners would bring an added value to the endogenous development process. In line with the principles set in the Paris Declaration (2005)<sup>1</sup>, the guidelines are intended to be a useful reference framework for the different development partners (local, national and international) interested in adding their efforts in a coordinated way to better contribute to aid effectiveness and sustainable development at the local level.

The participatory process itself is another important outcome. It has enabled results in the promotion of democratic and inclusive governance through facilitating social and institutional dialogue and active involvement of citizens in their local development processes since they were able to identify quick implementation projects to respond to their priorities. It is worthwhile highlighting the lively participation of a wide representation of women and youth, most of whom have participated for the first time in development discussions relating to their villages. This has provided them with an opportunity to voice their concerns and priorities.

Facilitating citizen’s active participation and inclusion in the development of their own village is an initial and humble contribution

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<sup>1</sup> Paris declaration on Aid effectiveness, ownership, harmonization, alignment, results, and mutual accountability, High Level Forum, Paris March 2005

to support the municipality in providing good governance, promoting transparency, assuring accountability and improving effectiveness and efficiency in the provision of public services. Consolidating and mainstreaming this practice under the leadership of the local authorities will be a crucial challenge for enhancing local governance in the long term.

Capacity development is a core component of UNDP's Strategic Plan 2008-2011 the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action<sup>2</sup>. UNDP AGK-SDP in Dragash make strengthening of national and local capacities a required spine for supporting the national and local leadership and assuring the expected outcomes to be achieved and sustained, based on the country's demand, rather than supply, through a cooperation approach.

UNDP-AGK promotes an active multilateralism, where local, national and

international partners collectively participate in local development challenges sharing a common operational framework. It also intends to contribute to the establishment and strengthening of stable and lasting alliances among decentralized cooperation partners, networks and communities from various countries to work in line with national/local priorities encouraging the exchange of innovation, best practices and knowledge, sharing via South-South, South-North and North-South partnerships.

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<sup>2</sup> Accra Agenda for Action, 3rd high level forum, Accra, September 2008





# Table of Contents

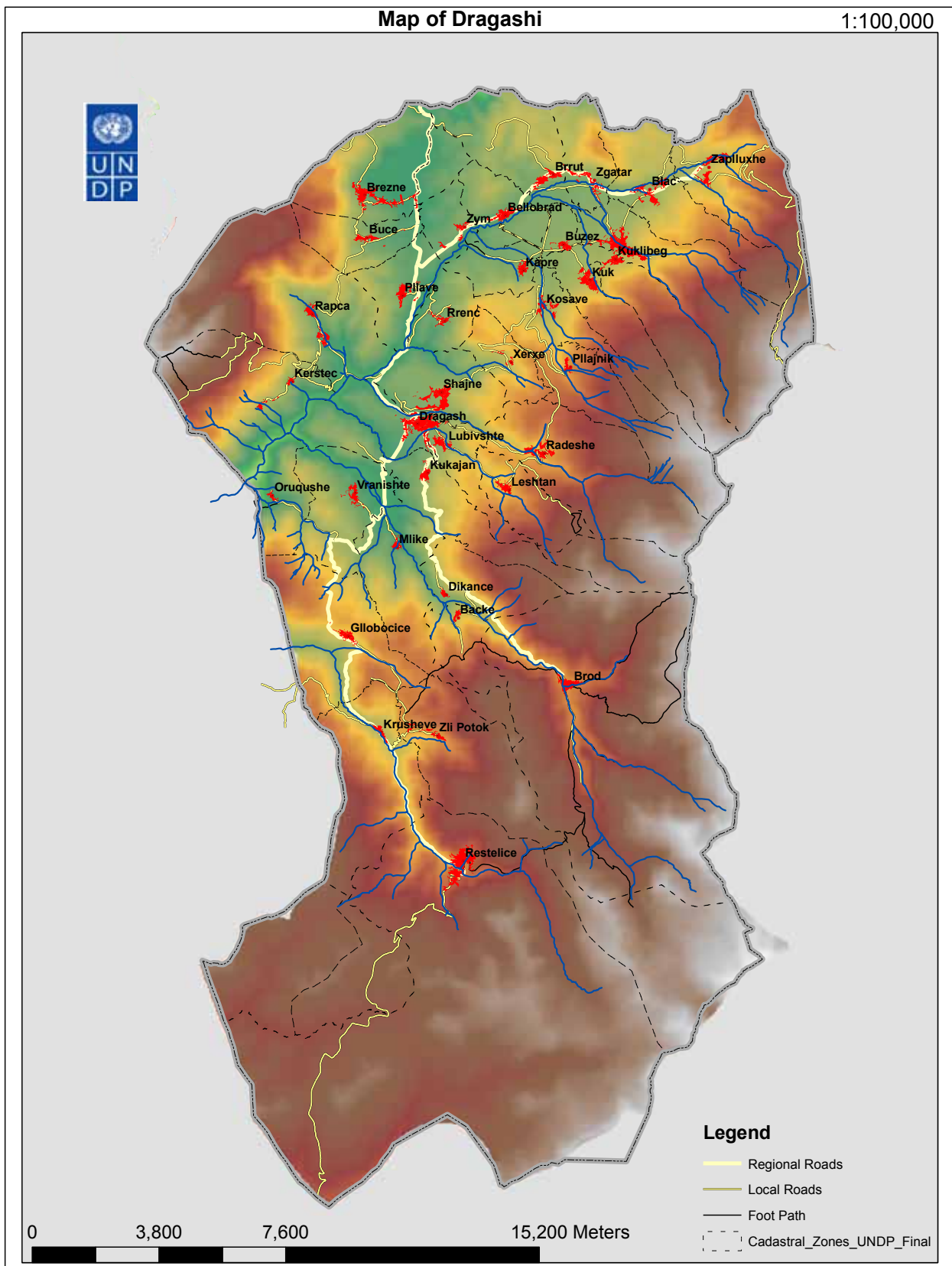
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<b>1. Map of Dragash/š</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2. Summary of Dragash/š development potential</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3. Municipal Guidelines for International Cooperation</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4. DRAGASH/Š GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION<sup>i</sup></b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5. Bellobrad/Belobrod Profile</b>	<b>31</b>
Local Working Group members	32
Introduction to the territory	33
Priority Sectors for development	34
<b>6. Blac/Bljac Profile document</b>	<b>37</b>
Local Working Group members	38
Introduction to the territory	39
Priority Sectors for development	40
<b>7. Brod/Brod Profile</b>	<b>45</b>
Local Working Group members	46
Introduction to the territory	47
Priority Sectors for development	48
<b>8. Brrut/Brut Profile</b>	<b>51</b>
Local Working Group members	52
Introduction to the territory	53
Priority Sectors for development	54
<b>9. Restelicë/Restelica Profile</b>	<b>57</b>
Local Working Group members	58
Introduction to the territory	59
Priority Sectors for development	60

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# 1. Map of Dragash/š municipality



# Summary of Dragash/š development potential

This document is intended to serve as an inspiration to all development partners, interested in the future of Dragash/š municipality, whether they be public or private, local, national or international. It provides an overall description of the features of Dragash/š municipality and highlights the main development issues to be addressed, and the inputs have come from a series of seminars and interviews with all interested parties in Dragash/š, from the municipality to the businesses to the villages. Furthermore, a number of very specific development programmes are mentioned. The document is not a feasibility study for development of Dragash/š, but points the interested parties in directions where assistance is needed. It is then up to the individual development partner how to initiate and pursue actual projects. Main sectors covered here comprise economic development, environmental issues, education and training, infrastructure, health and cultural heritage. Whereas of course some investments needed, like infrastructure, may require considerable resources, due to the size of Dragash/š, also smaller, and more limited projects, are presented.

Dragash/š municipality is richly endowed with cultural and historic heritage and stunning natural beauty. Population wise it is quite small, with less than 50,000 inhabitants and due to people having to leave to find jobs and income elsewhere, around 55% of the population are women. As in other parts of Kosovo, there is a considerable amount of young people. It is also quite a dispersed municipality with only one main town, Dragash/š, and around 35 villages spread out. The population is Albanian and Gorani-Bosnian, and there are no tensions between the two groups.

The main issues affecting the development of Dragash/š municipality are lack of employment and income generating activities, an environment that is in danger of becoming contaminated and very poor infrastructure, hampering transport and communication between the dispersed villages. The health and education systems are also in need of improvement and development actions need to consider the gender imbalance in Dragash/š, where women are well represented, but undereducated and underemployed.

Dragash/š has particular development potential in agriculture, especially within animal husbandry, but the agricultural sector needs improvements in both quality and quantity of goods manufactured. Furthermore, some agricultural practices are detrimental to the environment, and needs to be replaced.

Another option for development is tourism, as most of Dragash/š territory will become part of the Sharr/Šar national park. However, currently there are very limited facilities for tourist in Dragash/š, so to take advantage of this opportunity, both touristic services and infrastructure need to be developed and marketed together with Dragash/š attractions.

As the population is spread out over 35 villages and as the average farm size is very small, it is essential to support the creation and strengthening of private organizations, associations or cooperatives of producers. This should include support to promote, establish and strengthen international cooperation partnerships that can contribute to the sustainable and inclusive development process by sharing best practices and providing technical and financial assistance.

These avenues for economic development require consideration for the environment and environmental cleanup activities. Furthermore, the current infrastructure is not suitable for any major form of economic development, as there is only one main road, and many villages are only connected to the main road by dirt roads. Other infrastructure needs comprise the water and sewage systems which are inadequate and pose a threat to the environment, and the electricity supply, which is not sufficient, neither in quality, quantity or availability. Potential for using the natural resources, such as wind, water and biomass needs further assessment and investments.

As women are well represented in Dragash/š, it is crucial for the future development of the region that special attention is paid to ensure that women benefit from initiatives implemented. This is also the case when looking at the education and health systems, where women are left behind.

As you can see from the introduction to this report, the Mayor and the entire municipality are active partners in development of Dragash/š, but have limited resources available. Even though the public sector in Dragash/š is not described separately in this document, it is very open and willing to receive assistance, in particular in upgrading the qualifications and competencies of local staff and in continuing the process of participatory planning and inclusive governance that has been initiated. Further assistance to the public sector will be needed in relation to supporting the implementation of laws and norms related to sustainable local economic development.

While the health and education systems in Dragash/š live up to the official standards set for Kosovo, this is only in numbers. There is a need for improving both the health and education sectors by providing further staff training and updated equipment for the schools and for the clinics. Developments in these fields need to take in particular women's needs into consideration, as in Dragash/š women's access to education and health facilities are inadequate.

As stated in the introduction, Dragash/š has a rich cultural, historic and natural heritage. All developments should take this into account, and furthermore seeks to develop these assets, including developing the economic potential that the culture has.

#### **UNDP ART GOLD Kosovo (AGK) and UNDP Dragash/š Sustainable Development Project**

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Michael Neiman- Junior Development Expert-Ecotourism  
Kazuki Matsuura- Program Analyst  
Members of Local Working Groups

# Municipal Working Group

## Terms of Reference

### I. Establishment, composition, and operation

The Municipal Working Group (MWG) is a participatory, consultative forum established under the leadership of the local authorities in a spirit of genuine dialogue, solidarity, and equity, to support the achievement of the MDGs at the municipal level, within the general framework provided by the AGK.

The MWG will be made up of representatives from institutions and entities that are present in the territory, such as:

- a) The representatives of municipal government (by sector);
- b) Representatives of the business sector;
- c) Representatives of Civil Society
- d) Representatives of Academia sector;
- e) Representatives of International Cooperation Partners present in the territory (UN Agencies and other multilateral institutions, bilateral cooperation, international NGOs, Decentralized Cooperation representatives, others);

The members of the MWG represent the all community groups. The number of members can be as large as necessary so as to ensure a wide and comprehensive participation of civil society and the private sector. The associations of civil society represented in the MWG should have a demonstrated ability to understand and to address the needs of the most vulnerable groups of the community or the most vulnerable areas in the Region. The associations of the private sector represented in the MWG should have a demonstrated ability to understand and to address the needs of the informal sector and the small and medium sized enterprises.

Depending on the Agenda, the MWG may decide to extend the participation to other representatives or sectoral advisors/experts.

The MWG will be chaired by one representative of the local authority. The chairman will be the coordinator of the MWG. A secretary and deputy coordinator will be appointed. The secretary is in charge of taking the minutes of the meetings, circulating them and, including the pertinent feedback that might be received by the other members. The minutes will be signed by the members in the subsequent meeting. The coordinator is in charge of preparing and circulating in advance of each meeting the agreed agenda, assuring the participation of all the members (or their appointed substitutes), and taking the signatures on the list of attendants. The MWG further determines all other relevant operating procedures.

The Municipality will provide the MWG with a meeting room. The MWG meets periodically, depending on the needs, but at least on a monthly basis.

### II. Functions

The main role of the MWG is to provide advice to the Municipal government to promote Aid effectiveness and ensure articulation among different development initiatives carried out in the territory by different institutions/organization/partners. Besides that, the MWG support the Municipality in the management and implementation of the development projects and programmes.

**Specifically the MWG will have these functions:**

- The MWG will set up the criteria to decide on the villages to be included in the preparatory phase of AGK and Dragash/š Project for the local planning process, and will take the decision on selecting the villages based on the criteria.
- The MWG is in charge of developing a participatory consensus-building process to arrive at the development priorities in the community. The MWG will utilize the ART GOLD planning system based on the Participatory Maps of Needs, Opportunities and Resources. According with the findings obtained by the application of this participatory approach , the MWG, with the technical assistance of the AGK/ Dragash/š project team, will:
  - Support the elaboration the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), which will outline the multiannual geographical and sectoral strategic priorities based on the main development needs, potentials, and risks identified, assuring that the inputs from the villages are taken into account. This document will be coherent with the national development strategies and policies. The preliminary data gathered to draft the Municipal Development Plan will serve as a reference document for the MWG to elaborate the Dragash/š Development Guidelines for International Cooperation,
  - Identify project ideas in line with the development priorities set in the Dragash/š Development Guidelines. The MWG ensures that projects ideas identified are complementary with other national and international institutions presently working in the area, promoting synergies among them and aid effectiveness.
  - Further elaborate the project documents based on the project ideas approved.
  - Elaborate the Municipal Annual Work Plan based on the project documents approved in line with the MDP, including those to be supported by AGK; by Dragash/š Sustainable Development Project and by other sources (Local, National, and International partners, institutions and, Networks). The MWG ensures that AWP integrates the identified local priorities and planned actions (villages) and that the whole AWP is coherent with the national strategies and policies
- The MWG, with the technical assistance of the AGK/Dragash/š project team, will work for the identification and implementation of a capacity development plan.
- The MWG will follow up and if needed will provide support to the implementation of the projects approved at municipal and village level, as well when needed, will support their implementation.
- The MWG, with the technical assistance of the AGK/Dragash/š project team, will work to mobilize local and external resources and partnerships needed for the sustainable social, economic and cultural development of the community.
- The MWG, with the technical assistance of the AGK/Dragash/š project team, will provide full assistance to the Decentralized Cooperation delegations for the establishment of partnerships between homologous local communities, as well as for the definition and implementation of joint projects.
- Other functions can be agreed upon based on the needs.





# DRAGASH/Š

## DRAGASH/Š GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION<sup>ii</sup>



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**Lindita Priaj**  
**Bajram Hodza**  
**Tafil Krasniqi**  
**Bean Hadziasan**  
**Kamber Kamberi**  
**Flamur Sylejmani**  
**Suad Tosuni**

Coordinator  
 Director of Health  
 Director of Education  
 Director of Economy  
 Gorani Vice mayor  
 Albanian Vice mayor  
 Municipal Officer for Gender Equality  
 Director of Agriculture  
 Director of Defense/Emergency and Public services  
 Director of urbanism/ cadastre and environment protection  
 Director of culture/youth and sport  
 Local Action Group "Biosharri"  
 representative of NGOs  
 Director of Administration and Staff



# DRAGASH/Š GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION<sup>ii</sup>

## 1. Introduction to the territory

### Demography- population and settlements.

Dragash/š municipality has about 47,000 inhabitants and is among the most densely populated and poorest areas in Kosovo. It is estimated that around half of the population is below 30 years of age. Very few formal jobs are available, and as such, the majority of people live off the land. Furthermore, as so few jobs are available locally; many men seek employment outside Dragash/š, which is the reason for 55% of the population being female. The formal unemployment rate is probably the highest in Kosovo at approximately 80 %.

Dragash/š is the most fragmented municipality of Kosovo, distributed over 36+ villages in three river basins and weak dominance of the main settlement. This situation further stresses the infrastructure difficulties. Today, according to the municipal records, Dragash/š counts 854 companies that employ 774 persons, not counting the company owner. These are distributed over the villages, but the great majority of companies and jobs are concentrated in Dragash/š town.

Fifteen villages do not feature any company with a registered employee. According to the municipality there are three dairies and three meat processing plants/slaughterhouses operating, and the entire private sector is estimated at employing around 1500. The public sector employs 950 persons. The total numbers of formal jobs within Dragash/š is thus around 2500, and around 6000 are registered as job seekers.

Dragash/š territory is divided into two cultural regions: Opoja area with 19 villages, inhabited by Albanians (approximately 57% of the total municipal population) and Gora region with 16 villages, inhabited by Gorani-Bosnians (approximately 43% of the total municipal population). Dragash/š town is centered between the two regions and has a mixed Albanian-Gorani-Bosnian population. The municipality of Dragash/š is the only municipality of Kosovo where two communities share common institutions; furthermore, this municipality enjoys excellent relations between Gorani-Bosnians and Albanians, favoring the local development.

<b>Land Area</b>	435 Km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Estimated Population</b>	47,000 inhabitants (55% women, 45% men)
<b>Estimated Rate of Employment</b>	5 - 20% employed in formal jobs
<b>Occupation Specialization</b>	48 % public sector (mostly education, public administration and health workers) 52% private sector
<b>School Drop- out Age</b>	18 for boys, 14 for girls
<b>Illiteracy Rate</b>	1%men; 1% women

### Geographic characteristics and morphology

Dragash/š Municipality is situated in the southern most part of the country, sharing borders in the North with Prizren municipality, in the East and South-east with FYROM and in the West and South-west

with the Republic of Albania. Dragash/š municipality is unique in Kosovo context in the sense that almost the entire area is mountain. Dragash/š is the only municipality of Kosovo entirely set within mountains (>1000 m). This situation determines the local climate and creates handicaps for agriculture





and infrastructure Dragash/š covers app. 435 km<sup>2</sup>, which is 4% of Kosovo total area, nonetheless the municipality has 17 % of the pasture area in Kosovo, which is of course a function of the altitude, but is also a sign of the lack of development of the agriculture. Dragash/š is the only municipality of Kosovo that is accessible through a single and difficult road. This constitutes a handicap for trade on a daily basis as well as a localization factor for production and service businesses.

The municipal territory comprises 63.1% pasture-land, 20.7% forests, 7% meadows, 9% agriculture and 1.2% urban areas and bare land. Half of the village settlements have more than 80% of agricultural land. The region is rich in water resources with two main rivers, Pllava/Plav and Restelica/Restelicë, with a number of branches and three lakes. Gora villages, situated in the mountains are more compact than Opoja villages, which are situated in plain surfaces with scattered houses

### **Potentialities of the Municipality**

Dragash/š municipality is part of the Sharr/Šar Mountains region which is currently being considered for special protection status as part of the Sharr/Šar National Park. The national park status may be important for Dragash/š Municipality, not only in attracting tourists to the area, but also in assisting the local communities in reducing the current depletion of biodiversity, deforestation and degradation of land. Furthermore, protecting biodiversity and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources will allow for environmentally friendly investments in a sustainable economic development. Protecting the environment will allow for an increase in eco-tourism, where the natural resources and the geographical

conditions are the essence of the attraction of visitors. In terms of farming, protecting the environment also creates opportunities for income generation, as the Dragash/š area could promote itself as an organic farming territory and/or supply a variety of products and produce, not found elsewhere. However, all these plans require substantial investments in infrastructure, marketing and capacity building.

The high percentage of young population, properly harnessed and motivated represents a great resource, in the development of the municipality. The Diasporas (Dragash/š citizens who emigrated elsewhere seeking for better opportunities) are also able to play an important role in contributing positively to the development of the municipality, not only financially, but also in terms of introducing new approaches to development and commitment towards their communities as well as the sharing and exchange of knowledge on best practices.

### **Gender equality in Dragash/Dragaš**

The Law on Gender Equality in Kosovo (Law No. 2004/2) recognizes gender equality as a fundamental value for the democratic development of society. It sets the legal foundations for the provision of equal opportunities for both men and women in the political, economical, social, cultural and all other fields of life. To ensure that the legislation is implemented, the articles of the law state that specific and measurable actions are to be taken. Among them are:

- a 40% requirement of female participation in legislative, executive and judicial bodies at a central and local level;
- equal rights and opportunities to females and males in labor market and employment sector;
- the election criteria in local polls must take into account gender equality;
- conditions and rights in legislation will be equally available to both genders;
- and finally gender equality in the access to education.



Some of these measures have been implemented in Dragash/š, with, for example, a good representation of women in the Municipal Assembly with 8 women representing 40% of the total members. However, there are still many challenges in the implementation of the Law. More than 100 men work in the municipality and only 9 women, none of them at decision making level. There are limited measures in place in the municipal plans to promote women's empowerment and equal access to services and job opportunities. Access to secondary education and university is not a real option

for most of the girls in the municipality, due in part to economic constraints but also restricted as part of the local traditions. Health clinics are scarce, including access to specialized services such as gynecologic services.

Cooperation among local, national and international partners could improve the gender equality outlook and status in Dragash/š through the exchange of best practices, technical and financial support.

## 2. Priority sectors for development.

### Local Economic Development

#### Current situation

Until recently the economy of Dragash/š was largely based on the Sharrpordhimi/Šarproizvod agricultural Socially Owned Enterprise (SOE). Sharrprodhimi/Šarproizvod was a huge enterprise, at its largest employing over 10.000 people, both in direct agricultural activities, but it also comprised textile fabrication, a hotel and many other economic activities. It is currently under privatization, but according to the Privatization Agency, only part of the land will be privatized, while the rest of the SOE land will be dedicated to the planned Sharr/Šar Mountains National Park.



#### Non-agricultural activities

Dragash/š has seen a 54% increase in the number of companies registered in the municipality in the period from 2004 to 2009. This may seem impressive, but it is considerably lower than the national average of 82% increase. Furthermore, the enterprises registered are mostly very small businesses, often only providing employment for the owner himself. Dragash/š counts 854 companies that employ 774 persons, not counting the company owner. These are distributed over the villages of the municipality, but the great majority of companies and jobs are concentrated in Dragash/š town. Fifteen villages do not feature any company with a registered employee. According to

the municipality there are three dairies and three meat processing plants/slaughterhouses operating, and the entire private sector is estimated at employing around 1500. Public sector employs 950 persons. The total number of formal jobs within Dragash/š is thus around 2500. There are very few women involved in the business sector.

The dominant non-agricultural economic activities within the municipality are:

1. Retail trade: food and non food items
2. Manufacturing
3. Transport and communications
4. Services: hotels, restaurants

#### The agricultural sector

With only around 2500 formal jobs available, it is evident that the majority of the 47.000 Dragash/š inhabitants live of the land and from remittances from people working elsewhere.



Traditionally, citizens in the villages of Dragash/š Municipality have earned their living from working in the agricultural sector, whether from agriculture, dairy farming, or processing agricultural products, but with the decline in the agricultural production, those activities do not provide for an appropriate income. This despite an abundance of natural resources such as: green pastures, cultivated fields, clean water, etc. The Dragash/š agricultural sector may offer great opportunities, but to produce an improved outcome, the sector needs a boost with regards to product development; refined and more processing, improved hygienic standard, adaptation of products to market demand, quality certification (hygienic, organic) and marketing.

Agricultural activities range from subsistence farming to more organized farming for income generation, with animal husbandry of cattle and sheep as the main activities, supplemented by beekeeping, crop farming, and berry and herb collection. Sectors with huge potential for development, but currently under developed include the entire agricultural value chain, from farm production to food processing, tourism, communications, construction and handicrafts.

There are a total of 3,500 farms in Dragash/š. 95% are subsistence family farms, 3.5% produce for both domestic needs and for market sale and only 1.5% of the farms are truly commercially focused. This of course is also an indication that the entire agricultural sector is under-mechanized. There are more agricultural machines in the territory of the Opoja region, than in the Gora region.

### **Animal husbandry**

Kosovo's pastures are a valuable resource and provide a good food base for livestock development, especially for small ruminants. Pastures present a significant base for animal fodder and ecosystem balance. The importance of the use of pastures should not be seen just from the aspect of offering basic fodder for animals, especially during the summer season and producing hay as a bulk animal feed. The use of pastures as generally recommended should be focused on sheep, but with the proper planning

this resource can be used by other animals. In hilly-mountainous areas where mechanization is not always possible, pastures and grazing systems would replace cropping.

Another important aspect of the use of pastures is promotion of ecological/organic livestock; production in areas suited to natural grazing. Animal products from these areas are gaining in importance in Kosovo markets, but could become more profitable by introducing them to foreign markets.

Today it is estimated that there are a total of 6.000 cows, compared to 15.000 previously and around 9.000 sheep, down from 20.000. But as it can be seen elsewhere is Kosovo, there is an insufficient agricultural mechanization and an unbalanced cropping pattern. Furthermore, the local dairies and slaughterhouses are not able to produce in accordance with international standards for food safety and hygiene, and as such, even though there is a potential for producing an export quality product, this potential is not utilized. Lack of international standards also hampers the marketability of the products; both in the domestic market and internationally, as foodstuffs need to be certified to be exportable.

In general the livestock production is oriented to self consumption but there is an increase in the commercialization of dairy products thanks to the establishment of a number of milk collection centers for production of pasteurized milk, cheese, cream and yogurt. On a further positive note, according to the Swiss Development Cooperation, the annual milk production in Dragash/š has grown by 10 % annually between 2003 and 2007. The local milk production has increased its share of the local market from 3.5% to 10% in a market that has an annual growth rate of 7%. Around 70 farmers, with an average of 10 cows each, are engaged in the commercial production of cow milk and meat. The average milk production a day per cow is 10 liters, and there are four local milk collection points:

- Kuk/Kukovce village (1,500 liters per day collected),
- Buzez/Buzec (1,500 liters per day collected)
- Kosavë/Kosavce (over 700 liters per day collected)
- Bresanë/Brodosavce (600 liters per day collected).





In Restelica/Restelicë, Brod, Zlipotok and Kruševo/Krushevë, around 3,000 liters of milk are sold informally.

There are three slaughterhouses in Dragash/š municipality and three dairy processing plants. One of the meat plants, a meat processing factory, imports its raw materials. There is a wool processing plant as well.

Beekeeping is a successful sector due to favorable climatic conditions, clean air and rich flora. Free of chemicals and pesticides, the honey is of very high quality. The number of beekeepers has been increasing due to training and investments, including donor investments. In 2002 there were 12 beekeepers with 800 beehives, in 2004, 25 beekeepers with 1,600 beehives and in 2010 there were 36 beekeepers with 2,100 beehives. A Beekeeper Association provides training and production of honey is estimated to be 6,500 kg per year.

### Crop production

The main grain varieties grown in Dragash/š comprise

- wheat (96.5 hectares cultivated in autumn 2009)
- oats (45 Ha In spring 2010),
- barley (40 Ha in spring 2010) and
- rye (45 Ha in autumn 2009).

Most farmers grow potatoes (60 hectares in spring 2010), which yield, depending on rainfall and location, from 10,000-15,000 kg/ha. Potatoes as well as vegetables are mainly grown for personal family consumption.

The terrain is favorable for the cultivation of fruits and hazelnuts, and these currently grow

wild in the natural surroundings. However, despite optimal climatic conditions for this type of cultivation, these crops are not farmed commercially. The region is also richly endowed with medical, aromatic and other plants important for the pharmaceutical, food and cosmetic industry. Two companies are currently engaged in the marketing of herbs, spices and dried fruit. These companies buy the raw materials from primarily women and youth, who pick the herbs and spices in the wilds. A minimal value is added to the herbs and spices in drying and bulk packaging the raw material before shipping to clients aboard.

### Eco-tourism

The ecotourism sector is one of the greatest potentialities for development of the municipality. There are a variety of ecotourism attractions with potential for further development including, recreational fishing, hiking and climbing and flora and fauna to study for nature enthusiasts.



However, currently the facilities for benefitting from tourism are limited. There are no organized tours to Dragash/š, the local hotels are insufficient, so there are very few places to stay locally, and the population is not trained or even aware of the opportunities in setting up small scale tourism services.

### Handicrafts

Dragash/š women have traditionally been engaged in embroidery, knitting and sewing, and a few programmes have tried to market



these skills and products. However, there is a need to upgrade the skills of local women, as well as the quality of design and products offered, as the market for traditional handicrafts is limited.

## Issues affecting economic development

### Agriculture

As described above, the main economic activity in Dragash/š is various forms of agriculture, and as such, development of the agricultural activities will have widespread



effects.

It is estimated that around 80% of foodstuffs in Kosovo is imported. This is due not only to insufficient local production of foodstuff, but also due to a perception that imported food is of a better quality. There are a number of international standards for the food processing industry. These standards are market driven and as such it is the market that decides if a specific standard is required. So far it is not a requirement in Kosovo for selling foodstuff that they comply with a particular standard, but this requirement has been introduced in FYROM, for example, and standard compliance and certification is required for exports of foodstuffs and other agricultural products. Looking at the dairy sector and the difference between the two national industries in Kosovo and for example Slovenia is a question of operational scale and level of technology. As much as 85 percent of Slovenia's raw milk production flows through industrial dairy processors. In Kosovo, the proportion of raw milk flowing through industrial processors is about 30

percent, and in Dragash/š it is 15%. Normally in Dragash/š the milk as well as Sharr/Šar cheese is sold at ambient temperatures. Much of this production is processed by small farmers and for a smaller share, by two dairy processors. This situation in Dragash/š is not unlike Slovenia 30 years ago or the US and the EU countries 100 years ago

As described above, there is a huge development potential for agricultural activities in Dragash/š, notably in animal husbandry and the associated produce and products. Other farming activities include beekeeping and honey making, and a large number of families supplement their income by collecting herbs for infusions in the forest and selling them to middle-men. However, with the fragmented nature of the settlements in 36 villages and a lack of updated information and advice for the farmers, there is a need for providing support in a number of areas, such as

- animal husbandry, selecting the proper breeds and feeds
- processing of agricultural products and produce
- packaging
- waste disposal
- managing water resources
- marketing and distribution
- standards for food safety and hygiene
- utilization of by-products
- joint (cooperative) efforts for agricultural and market information, transport, feeds, marketing etc

Forest resources in Kosovo have over a long period of time been overexploited, resulting in considerable losses of capital and employment opportunities. However this phenomenon is not widely present in Dragash/š Municipality. Even though present in a small amount the uncontrolled wood-cutting has increased the risk of erosion in the mountainous areas.

Factors that put environmental pressure on forests include: (1) illegal wood cutting, (2) diseases and pests, (3) poor quality forest structure, (4) insufficient use of forest land capacity, (5) insufficient implementation of silvicultural measures

Land is left uncultivated due to the lack of profitability followed by lack of inputs. The lack of profitability is influenced by

constraints in the access to and limited diversification of markets. The only markets are of mixed goods in Dragash/š town and in Bresanë/Brodosavce, both held once a week. There is a need for at least a livestock-focused market as the area is highly dependent on livestock. Furthermore, there are constraints in transport to reach the market due to underdeveloped road infrastructure.



Environmental issues also comprise the burning of fields, a widely disseminated practice that is affecting the quality of the agricultural land. Another local practice, negatively affecting the environment, is damaging the plants when collecting medical herbs, which can endanger the future growth of these plants. Training and market and quality standard assessment on collecting medical herbs could increase the profitability of this activity and assure sustainability.

### Non-agricultural economic activities

As stated earlier, there are not many formal jobs in Dragash/š, and there are very few training providers as well. This puts a special challenge on the economic development activities, as all development projects have to think the training component into the development project itself. But as stated above, the main drivers of economic development in Dragash/š are expected to be various forms of agriculture and forestry along with an expected increase in tourism. This will again entail, that the non-agricultural economic activities will be related to these main activities, and as such, be in various forms of agro-processing activities and activities related to tourism development. For agro-processing, two main issues need to be considered, namely the quality upgrading

in the entire agricultural value added chain, all the way from farmer to consumer, and the issue of adequate and reliable supplies being available.

As most of the farms are small scale or even subsistence farms, there is an urgent need to support and develop collaborative efforts and local markets to ensure a coherent supply of goods as well as quality upgrading of goods produced. Only once such adequate local production is available, both in terms of quantity and quality will the agro-industry be able to develop and create new jobs.

This again requires that support is provided at all levels, from the farm level through transportation and marketing of goods. Support is needed at a number of levels, including

- municipality wide level in preparing an overall marketing plan for the agricultural sector in the municipality and to identify possible buyers of the agricultural produce and products
- industry level, in preparing the local dairies and slaughterhouses in quality upgrading
- farm level, in preparing the individual farms for producing quality products
- village level, in supporting joint cooperative actions for transport of goods, growing of animal foodstuff, waste disposal etc
- municipal level, in establishing an information unit, capable of providing agricultural information at farm level on prices and produce, as well as function as a calendar for village events, facilitating village interactions.

With respect to tourism and tourism related activities, these are to a large extent embryonic in Dragash/š – but with a huge potential for development, once the Sharr/Šar Mountains National Park will be established..

### Future recommended activities

- Develop a Sustainable Eco-tourism strategy
- Land use and impact on nature (trails, camping, infrastructure)
- Land use for traditional livelihood activities







- Garbage and protection of natural resources
- Connect with routes to Prizren, Štrpce/Shtërpçë, FYROM, Albania
- Develop a Consistent Brand
- Mark and maintain hiking trails
- Train local guides to provide guided tours and strengthening English skill
- Promotion of culture and tradition
- B&B opportunities
- Marketing of Dragash/š as Tourist Destination
- Tourism Information

As there is no real tourism in Dragash/š today, the development will require good marketing, combined with a preparation of the local population for receiving tourists. There is no need to engage in marketing activities, as long as the region has nothing to market. This will require a double sided action, which on the one hand ensures that tourist facilities, such as lodgings, catering and other facilities are developed locally, while at the same time ensuring the effective marketing of such facilities.

The attraction in itself, namely the Sharr/Šar Mountains will not be sufficient to develop tourism into a job creating sector. Potential tourists need to be guided around the attractions via accessibility and infrastructure, in the form of hiking trails, fishing opportunities, camping sites and other facilities to be developed. The local population then needs to be involved and trained for providing touristic services like developing accommodation, catering (possibly adding value to the excellent local tradition), guides, etc.

As the market for tourism in the Sharr/Šar area will be specialized and as it will take time to develop a substantial volume of tourists coming to Dragash/š, the marketing needs to be highly selective and targeted. There is a need for a programme to effectively develop the two sides of tourism simultaneously, the attractions and facilities and the marketing of the region as such.

Handicrafts are to some extent related to tourism, but can also be an economic activity in itself. In particular the women of Dragash/š

have traditionally been engaged in sewing, embroidery and knitting. However, the market for traditional handicrafts is limited, but the skills could be combined with more modern designers.

There is a need to develop a programme for presenting the skills of local handcrafters to modern designers and explore if a linkage could be established. There are designers and a design school in Prishtina/Priština and elsewhere in Kosovo, who might be able to use the Dragash/š handicraft capabilities in their production of designs, and as such, the local handicrafts could be a significant contributor to local economic development.

This will again require organization and coordination on both the local level, ensuring that the Dragash/š women are willing, interested and able to participate in such a programme, and, as for the tourism component, a highly selective and specialized marketing programme. Such a programme may also require that training is available in the Dragash/š region to allow the women to upgrade their skills, if special requirements are made.

## Education

### Current Situation

Primary education in Dragash/š consists of 12 primary schools, 11 of which offer pre-school facilities, one secondary school and one facility for students with special needs.

As of 2010 there are 4,991 students enrolled in primary education, 326 teachers and 63 administrative staff. In secondary education there are 950 students enrolled, 69 teachers and 9 administrative staff. There are 35 women employed in the education sector, most of them teachers in primary education.

Vocational training in the municipality of Dragash/š offers qualifications and training courses in areas such as sewing, auto mechanics, carpentering, animal care, electrics, materials processing, baking, typewriting, hairdressing and bricklaying.

A few villages/settlements have two

educational systems, the Kosovo system and a parallel system, supported by Serbia.

The average school drop-out age is 18 for boys and 14 for girls. Most girls do not continue with the secondary and further education, mainly due to social, cultural and economic constraints (transport, school fees and materials), and the lack of future prospects is discouraging parents from investing in girl education. This situation only aggravates the female position in Dragash/š society, and is more pronounced in the Gora - than in the Opoja region.



As elsewhere in Kosovo, a certain number of the school teachers do not have any formal training apart from secondary schooling, and while teacher's qualifications are now constantly improving, there is still a need for qualified teachers for specific subjects.

All schools need Investment in the infrastructure and in educational materials such as books, video projectors and maps and other school equipment, in particular in subject specific equipment for biology, music, physics, social science and informatics.

### **Challenges and needed investments**

Investment in education and training is investing in the youth and future of Dragash/š. Dragash/š schools may not be as crowded as elsewhere in Kosovo, but there is an urgent need to improve the quality of both primary

and secondary education offered.

In the primary and secondary schools, investment in teacher training, both subject training and pedagogical training, and in school infrastructure and equipment would greatly improve the education offered, and as such, also attract more students to continue their schooling. In particular there is a need for programmes, promoting girls education after the age of 14 and encouraging girls and their families to continue their education. This could be in the form of special scholarships for girls, rewards offered for continuing schooling, or prizes offered to the best students, allowing them to continue their education.

The same issues affect the vocational training system in Dragash/š. The facilities and training courses offered in the vocational schools are inadequate to meet the demands needed for Dragash/š development, and there is a need for programmes upgrading both the trainers' qualifications and the facilities in the schools. Furthermore, there is a need for introducing training in subjects, which are new to Dragash/š. This could be in connection with the anticipated increase in tourism, where the vocational schools currently have no form of training available for guides, cooks, waiters, or other skills needed. It could be in connection with the upgrade of the quality of foodstuffs produced in Dragash/š, where there is a need for food technicians, veterinary technicians, laboratory facilities etc.

Whereas the need for upgrading the primary and secondary education and improving girl access to education is obvious, upgrading and improvement of the vocational training needs to be coordinated with other development programmes in Dragash/š. As such, an investment in the education system will have a much more profound effect on the social and economic development. It is also important to involve the employers in Dragash/š in any programmes for improving the vocational training, as their input and need for trained staff will have a profound effect on the employment opportunities for the school leavers.





## Health

### Current situation

Dragash/š municipality has one Main Centre for Family Medicine (Dragash/š town 24 hour assistance), five Centers for Family Medicine and eight Health Ambulance Centers (local health centers).

The criteria to establish and staff a Center of Family Medicine or a Health Ambulance Center are as follows:

- Health Ambulance Center per 6,000 inhabitants
- Center of Family Medicine per 10,000 inhabitants
- Main Center of Family Medicine per 100,000 inhabitants
- 1 doctor and 2 nurses per 2,000 inhabitants

Due to budgetary constraints not all villages have a health centre. Nevertheless a zoning exercise has been carried out to ensure that all villages are catered for by the existing centers.

Dragash/š has 22 doctors (all male), 53 nurses (23 female, 30 male) and an estimated population of 47,000, so according to the health policy of Kosovo, Dragash/š meets the health care standards of staff-patient ratio although with a strong gender unbalance concerning doctors.

Since 2009 the medical services in the municipality have notably improved according to indicators on the quality of services and population health. In 2009 Maternal mortality was 0%, infant mortality 0.6% and the immunization ratio in Dragash/š was the highest of Kosovo. There are services providing health education and family planning and miscarriages and unwanted pregnancies are declining. The rate of disease transmission is reduced with 858 cases of contagious diseases recorded in 2009, which is very low when compared with other municipalities

The main health services provided in the Main Family Medicine Center are: family health, pediatric, gynecological, dental, emergency, diagnostic, and medicaments supply.

Every month the staff receives refreshment lectures by local and national experts.

Even though continuous efforts are made to improve the health services offered, the health system is still in need of further investment in infrastructure, staff, working tools and materials.

There are no female doctors and it is difficult for women to access gynecological services, as the only gynecologist is located in Dragash/š. Furthermore, there are only two pediatricians for the entire municipality. Access to medication is also an issue, even though the Ministry of Health supplies medicines, these are not sufficient to fulfill the needs of the population.

### Challenges and investments needed

Supplying health services to a dispersed community, such as Dragash/š is a challenge in itself. With a population of only around 47,000 people, living in over 35 villages in mountainous terrain, just providing basic health services to the people requires a lot of resources and organization.



While the numbers indicate that Dragash/š health services are within the national requirements for doctors, nurses and clinics, these numbers do not match the real composition of the population, with a majority of women.

Further investments in the health system in Dragash/š are therefore needed, in particular in the following areas:



- Updated equipment for both the man health centre in Dragash/š and the local health centers, both in terms of medical equipment, but also in the form of communication and media equipment
- Improved focus on women's health, and in particular reproductive health
- Programmes for encouraging girls to pursue a medical career and programmes for attracting more female doctors and nurses to Dragash/š
- Awareness raising programmes to minimize transmittable diseases spreading
- A feasibility study for assessing the possibility for establishing internet based health services

## Environment

### Current Situation

The region around Dragash/š is certainly endowed with stunning natural beauty. It is home to the Sharr/Šar Mountains with their beautiful landscapes and valleys, and there are lakes, huge forests, cold springs and rivers. The vegetation is still rich and varied and the region is rich in water resources.

As mentioned above, there are ongoing plans for establishing a nature reserve around Dragash/š municipality, covering not only Kosovo, but also neighboring countries. The Sharr/Šar Mountains Reserve is anticipated to comprise the Sharr/Šar Park in Kosovo, Mavrovo in FYROM and Kora Park in Albania. It is an area of stunning natural beauty and with clean and crisp air, due to the altitude as well as underdeveloped industry and low levels of urbanization.

Even though Dragash/š is located in a mountainous region, only 11-15% of the territory is covered with forests, with the bulk of the territory utilized for extensive agriculture, mainly pasture land.

Existing data for forest resources in Dragash/š shows important species for biodiversity of *Pinus Heldreichii* (Bosnian Pine) which

is located in Koritnik. Other tree species present are Beech, Oak, Birch, Fir and Black pine. The productivity of the forest is good but can be improved if proper management is undertaken, thus contributing to the local economy, employment and biodiversity.

Dragash/š territory as a whole is a unique ecosystem, composed by part wild, part cultivated land, rich in biodiversity. Its potential inclusion, either partly or entirely, in the planned National Park will crucially influence the development of Dragash/š. National park status will influence both the way the uncultivated land is managed as well as have a huge influence on how the agriculture is developed and how the natural resources are exploited.

There is, however and unfortunately, limited social awareness about environmental protection, leading to widespread pollution. Solid waste is dumped in all riverbeds, public spaces and fields, while enormous amounts of construction waste is disposed of along rivers and roads in illegal dump sites. Some water resources are contaminated and clean drinking water is insufficient –water reservoirs are in



bad condition and waste water is discharged without preliminary treatment.

The pollution of the region's water and natural resources is detrimental to flora and fauna and therefore the whole ecosystem; it also facilitates the development and spread of diseases. The current situation is therefore not compatible with any ecotourism strategy since the degradation of natural resources is





widely spread and deteriorates the natural beauty of the sceneries.

As the population in Dragash/š is largely unaware of the dangers of pollution and the effects it will have, not only on the current form of living, but also how it will affect planned initiatives, such as tourism, unsustainable practices are taking place in all dimensions of social behavior. There is limited or no awareness among beneficiaries on why it is important for this trend to change or that the territory's most precious and currently abundant natural resources are at risk. Although air pollution is not presently a major issue, current practices may potentially cause air pollution, such as the burning of fuel and waste.

As there is no proper forest management system in place, the forests are degraded and exploited, as the people use the forests for whatever they can find in them, plants, woods, etc, even though organized illegal logging is so far not taking place.

Depopulation of the Dragash/š region is also an environmental threat. Even though depopulation – people leaving Dragash/š to seek a livelihood elsewhere – will lead to fewer people polluting the area, it also poses a threat to the environment, as the depopulation could lead to even less management of the land resources.

Although the environment may hold a potential for developing wind and water energy, and possibly improved utilization of biomass, there is a lack of investment in the energy sector and a lack of available experts in this field.

### **Challenges and possible investments**

Investing in the environment in Dragash/š is not only a benefit locally, but, as it has been shown in so many places, investment in bettering the environment has widespread effects. It improves the local lives and living conditions and helps minimize health risks locally. But environmental investments have cross-borders effects as well, not only in ensuring better environmental conditions, but also as demonstration projects for neighboring

countries. And environmental investments opens up possibilities for economic gains, both in the form of an increased tourism, but also in the form of potential investments in greener technologies and greener land, forest and water management practices.

To initiate and keep environmental clean-up and maintenance practices in Dragash/š, it is crucially important to raise the local population's awareness of the pollution problems and introduce environmentally sustainability practices for farming, foresting, manufacturing and in general, everyday living. This includes awareness raising and sustainable practices for waste disposal, waste water treatment, farming and farming practices, including burning of stub fields and animal waste disposal, and in general, conservation of animal, plant and forest species. Part of such a programme could comprise reforestation practices, for example with "plant a tree" days for school children and school activities for cleaning the environment. Engaging entire villages or cities in such clean-up programmes have been proven successful elsewhere, often being part of local markets or holidays.

Such a massive programme will most likely take the form of a dual action, where one part is awareness raising among the population of the dangers of pollution, and the second part is providing alternatives to the polluting practices, used today. People are not going to stop dumping waste, unless there is an alternative presented to this practice, or stop using the rivers as dump sites, unless alternatives are available. Possibly, such actions should also include penalties for continuing with polluting behavior.

Some of these investments are huge infrastructure investments in for example water treatment plants, and will be presented in the infrastructure section below.

As a national park status will have a profound impact on the future of Dragash/š as well as influence the livelihood of the inhabitants with jobs, created from increased tourism, a programme for promoting and encouraging the extension of the boundaries of the Šarr/Šar National Park to include Dragash/š municipal territory should be developed.



Being part of this national park will provide Dragash/š with an instant recognition as a destination for tourists, which in itself will attract investments in the sector.

An assessment of the Dragash/š potential for renewable energies is also needed. The resources, in the form of water, wind and biomass, are already present in Dragash/š, but there are no plans for how to utilize such resources to contribute to sustainable local

development. This includes assessing potential sites for wind parks and the wind patterns, assessing the potential for establishing photovoltaic solar plant and small hydro power plants. Such an energy assessment for Dragash/š should also include on-farm energy production, including suggestions on how to utilize biomass and other on-farm resources for energy generation.

## Basic services and Infrastructure

### Current Situation

While in Dragash/š Municipality basic public services are provided such as water, electricity and waste disposal, and infrastructure such as roads and telecommunication is present, such services are both inadequate and furthermore, unevenly distributed among the villages.

Water is one of the biggest assets of the municipality. There are various water supply systems in Dragash/š town and in some settlements. Most of the villages are supplied with water from the municipal water supply system and a small number of villages are supplied from water springs by using local pumps. Maintenance of the water system in Dragash/š is undertaken by the “Hidroregjioni” organization, while the existing water supply systems in the villages are done by the village itself. The Dragash/š municipality has a plan for developing a single municipal water supply system, providing clean water services to 8 villages.

The capacity of the water supply systems in a number of villages does not satisfy the needs of the population, not only in terms of quality but also in quantity, because the systems are old and damaged and the demand for water has increased. The water used for drinking is only controlled and analyzed in Dragash/š town.

Most villages have sewage systems but these systems do not cover the entire village and only four villages (Kruševo/Krushevë, Zgatar, Buzez/Buzec and Kuk/Kukovce) have septic tanks. All are located in the Opoja valley, which means that the mountainous Gora

area, where rivers are abundant, completely lacks this service. Therefore, in the Gora area, waste waters are often disposed into the rivers.

Waste collection services are provided in Dragash/š town and in all of the 19 villages in the Opoja region, but there is only one official municipal dump site. There are 16 villages, comprising 40% of the population, with no access to waste collection (all in the Gora region). This lack of service is due to lack of manpower and equipment in the waste collecting company. In some villages the service is available but the population is not willing to pay the quoted price and so the waste is disposed of in the rivers or off the roadside. Since there is no dump site in the Gora region and the existing dump site is very far, the costs for the waste collection are higher in the Gora region than in the Opoja region.

Some environmental clean-up has been initiated with waste cleaning activities in a few villages and alongside some roads being undertaken, as well as removal of waste from rivers.

Electricity is available in the entire Dragash/š municipality. The Dragash/š municipality was one of the first rural regions to be electrified in Kosovo. Electricity is supplied by KEK, but not in sufficient quantity or quality to fulfill the current needs of the population, let alone allow for any substantial increase in economic activity. Although the electricity supply system covers the entire municipality, it is 60 years old and in need of renovation and improvements. Street



lights are provided in part of Dragash/š town and in a few other villages.

Landline telephony services are available in Dragash/š town and in three villages with a total of only 8% of the population owing a landline. The mobile telephone network, however, covers almost the entire territory.

Mail services are available in Dragash/š town and four other villages. Banking services are provided only in Dragash/š town. All villages are connected to the main asphalt road but some villages are accessible only through dirt roads. Many villages do not have access to any form of public transportation and are totally dependent on cars for any form of transport. Needless to say, not many people in the villages are able to afford having a car at their disposal.

### **Challenges and possible investments**

Infrastructure investments can often be massive, and feasibility studies are crucial to avoid costly mistakes in investments. Infrastructure investments, are also, however, a key to developing a regions social and economic potential. With a growing worldwide awareness of in particular issues regarding the environment, developments have favored smaller and individually adapted solutions to many infrastructure issues. In some cases, costly investments may even be avoided, if a behavioral change is implemented among the population. In Dragash/š, due to its disperse and difficult geography, it is essential to be creative to solve some of the infrastructure problems in a sound, but cost effective manner.

Access to clean water is, however, of major importance for any population, and as such, also of course in Dragash/š. A programme for a thorough assessment of the water supply and water treatment in the entire Dragash/š municipality is needed to provide an overview of the investments required. However, in the villages without access to proper sewage or waste water disposal systems, individual solutions will have to be identified. Such programmes for improving the water supply system would improve their effectiveness by being accompanied by awareness raising and

other forms of campaigns, involving local communities and population in both the investments, and in mobilizing local resources for better management and utilization of existing networks.

With respect to solid waste disposal, an integrated waste and waste water management is needed. Is there a possibility for establishing a better and cheaper waste collecting system? Is it possible to use the waste in energy generation? Should fees for waste collection be collected through taxes or other forms of mandatory payments? Are there penalties in place for dumping waste and polluting, and are such penalties enforced? Is recycling of some forms of waste possible, and how should it be organized?

Transportation and the road infrastructure is an area where in the past Dragash/š has suffered from underinvestment. Roads everywhere were in need of improvement. Within the recent years the situation has improved since the Municipality has concentrated its investments mainly on road infrastructure and as a result of this has fixed and paved most of the roads that link Dragash/š villages with the main road that leads to Prizren city. Improvement of the road infrastructure has to be thoroughly assessed as to the benefits that can be derived from further improving the road network. Investment in road infrastructure has to be seen in view of the development plans for the Dragash/š municipality and the anticipated need for such investments. This means that a plan for further improvement of transportation infrastructure has to take into account the possible economic developments and the need for improved infrastructure to transport goods from for example improving the agriculture, or the infrastructure needs from an increase in tourism, should Dragash/š receive national park status. Any planned investments in tourism facilities or in larger economic units, such as agricultural processing plants etc. needs to be incorporated when planning the transport infrastructure.

On a positive note, it has been seen elsewhere in Kosovo, that when economic activity increase in an area, transport companies are the first to react with investments. Towns, where



investments have been made in employment generating activities have seen, for example the added advantage of private bus companies taking up service to their towns. This could also happen in Dragash/š.

## Identity and Cultural Heritage

### Current Situation

Dragash/š is rich in cultural heritage and identity. Cultural heritage and traditions run deep in the society, and manifest themselves in a number of ways. There are, for example, a number of events which are part of the identity of the population in Dragash/š municipality and that have important cultural and spiritual value. Some examples are the Saint George day (pagan feast), engagement celebrations and marriages. These events are important in Dragash/š life, and during such celebrations, the unique traditional clothing of this part of the country are worn. Dragash/š also have rich traditions in music, folklore, sportive competitions (horses, wrestling), songs, games, dancing and food, to just mentions some aspects of live, where the cultural heritage manifest itself.



The main cultural institutions are located in Dragash/š town and include the Cultural House and the library. Other smaller libraries are available in the Bresanë/Brodosavce, Brezne/Brezna, Bellobrad/Belobrod, Brod, and Kruševo/Krushevë villages. There are also some artistic-cultural associations in a few

villages, but due to budget constraints they are almost non functional.

The traditional Dragash/š culture also manifests itself in the manufacturing of a number of handicrafts, mainly sewing and embroidery of traditional clothing and various decorations for the house.

As elsewhere, the growing importance of TV and mass media is putting the traditional culture under a strain. Youth tend to be more engaged in the mainstream culture, displayed by the mass media, than in celebrating traditional culture, and this is emphasized by the lack of available funds for organizing traditional local events in an updated manner. Lack of available funds also means that cultural and historic monuments are not maintained and in danger of simply disappearing, and the same goes for traditional houses and other buildings.

### Challenges and potential investments

Developing an area to cater for its cultural heritage requires a long term planning effort. Furthermore, it is necessary to keep in mind, that all cultural practices are not necessarily worth promoting, and it is vital to keep a critical mind when promoting traditional values. It is a very delicate balance to promote traditional heritage and culture in a way that ensures that contemporary values, such as gender equality and respect for the environment, are incorporated in the plan and respected.

Investments required would comprise funds and resources available for the overall survey and planning of a cultural heritage programme. Such a programme should be elaborated in close collaboration with other ongoing activities in the municipality, in particular with planned and ongoing activities in the economic development sector, as there will be overlaps with initiative to promote for example tourism or local markets.

Raising local awareness of the importance of cultural heritage will also require investments in specific actions such as rehabilitating for instance the cinema and the monuments to promote the cultural and historical values



of the community. However, when planning such investments, the maintenance aspect is crucial to bear in mind. For instance, renovating a cinema will require that somebody is actually interested and capable of running the cinema as a business venture, and renovation of monuments should include signage to provide protection status as well as provide information for tourists.

Raising awareness of the importance and significance of traditional culture should also include special actions, directed at the youth, possibly organized in collaboration with the local schools and libraries. Such programmes could be in the form of festivals or sports events, and could even include environmental aspects (cleaning Dragash/š, plant a tree day etc) and could include prizes for the best schools/students participating. Other significant initiatives are promoting handicrafts, where local women are encouraged to document and formalize their local knowledge of handicrafts,

textiles, history and cultural heritage as an important means to preserving Dragash/š culture and attracting tourism. Again, it is important to initiate such programmes in a manner that ensures sustainability so that investments of time and resources are not seen as just a onetime affair. This means that the commercial aspects should be included when planning initiatives. This could be in the form of involving local businesses as sponsors or promoting local handicrafts to potential buyers of the products.

The feasibility of establishing a municipal, historic, cultural and ethnographic centre/museum should be part of the cultural plan for Dragash/š. Such a centre could for instance showcase traditional clothes, musical instruments, traditional furniture and materials among others, and could be a valuable partner in promoting Dragash/š identity.



# Bellobrad Belobrod

**Welcome to the green village.**

*The natural environment surrounding the village is very beautiful; there are forests, which are very rich with a variety of trees (beech, oak, pine), plants, herbs and wild fruits (raspberry, wild pears and apples, hazelnuts, cherries).*



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# BELLOBRAD/BELOBROD: Welcome to the green village.

*The natural environment surrounding the village is very beautiful; there are forests, which are very rich with a variety of trees (beech, oak, pine), plants, herbs and wild fruits (raspberry, wild pears and apples, hazelnuts, cherries).*



*Major investments needed in Bellobrad/Belobrod, as indicated by the Bellobrad/Belobrod people, comprise*

- Upgrading and improvement of the public water supply system, as 40% of houses do not have regular and continuous access to clean water
- Upgrading and improvement of the education system, in particular a pre-school class
- Improved health services for villagers
- Rehabilitation of the village library

## Introduction to the territory

Bellobrad/Belobrod is a transit village used to reach other villages in the Opoja Region. It is located to the right of the Opoja River and has an altitude of 1000m. The village is abundant in natural beauty and resources such as the river, pastures and mountains. The main infrastructure for the provision of services and for economic, cultural, social and religious activities within the village includes a public school, a library and cultural centre, a mosque, a primary health care centre, a pharmacy, a post office, internet café and a number of private services (car wash and mechanic, gas station, two carpenters, two wheel changers, four grocery shops, five coffee shops and two hairdressers).

Bellobrad/Belobrod has about 1,250 habitants (120 families) with approximately 50 % of the

population being male and 50% female while the youth makes up 50% of the village population. There is a high rate of unemployment. The total number of registered employed people is 183 out of which 118 work in the public sector and 65 in the private sector. The majority of the population is engaged in subsistence agricultural or farming activity (more than 60%). There are a number of people self-employed through private initiatives. This employment situation has led to at least half of the families of the village sending at least one person abroad to work (319 people are now living and working abroad), making remittances the main source of income for the families in Bellobrad/Belobrod. 19 families have also migrated within the country mainly to Prizren and Prishtina/Priština, for work.



<b>Land Area</b>	4.36 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Estimated Population</b>	1,250 inhabitants (50% women, 50% men)
<b>Estimated Rate of Employment</b>	15%
<b>Sector</b>	64% private 36% public
<b>School Drop-out Age</b>	Men 18 and Women 14 years
<b>Illiteracy Rate</b>	1% women, 1% men

## Priority sectors for development

### Local Economic Development

<b>Field</b>	160 ha
<b>Meadows</b>	394 ha
<b>Pastures</b>	934 ha
<b>Forests</b>	121 ha

Approximately 20-30% of the land is used to grow beans and potatoes. About 200 kg of beans and 700 kg of potatoes are collected during autumn, but are mainly for personal use. The rest of the land constitutes pasture land for animals.

Half of the families in the village have a cow (60 cows in total) and sell milk to those in the village without cows. Approximately 500 liters are obtained from the cows daily. There are about 200 sheep and their wool is often discarded as there is no market for it. Lambs are also sold at a very low price. In order to improve agro-economic income generating activities in Bellobrad/Belobrod, investment and support is needed for equipment, technical training and guidance, and access to markets, especially for dairy products.

Other on and off-farm activities comprise beekeeping, but there is only one beekeeper in the village that produces honey mainly for personal consumption (4 beehives) and collecting of wild fruits and berries. Some of the fruit more commonly found in the area are wild pears and apples, hazelnuts and cherries. In the past Trout fish could be found in the river, but unfortunately due to polluted water this is not possible anymore.

Women produce different handicrafts (traditional outfits for brides and items for



home decoration) and sell them to other women within the village, surrounding villages or in the market in Prizren. Women are keen to be involved in economic activities and many have participated in various vocational training such as sewing. They have the equipment (sewing machines), but cannot readily access the market. They are further interested in diversifying their production and in gaining more skills for income generation.

There are several entrepreneurs providing services and with private small businesses. These include two auto mechanics, five grocery shops, four coffee shops, two hair dressers and two small boutiques.

Bellobrad/Belobrod has beautiful farmlands, local shops and cafes along the main road providing suitable resting spots for travelers, to purchase water, food, and other supplies. However, at this time the tourist potential for the village is still a challenge. As a whole,



the Opoja region could be interconnected as a rural regional highlight where hiking, mountain biking, and other recreational activities would allow travelers to enjoy visiting different villages. Trails along the hillsides north of the village towards Prizren and towards Llopushnik/Lopuški Han could potentially be further developed.

*“We envision Bellobrad/Belobrod as a village with a developed agriculture and providing different services for tourists’ (Visioning exercise\*).*

### Health

There is one public Family Health Centre, staffed by one doctor, one nurse and one lab worker, 8 hours a day. In this Centre primary health care services are provided for free to the villagers. There are also two private health care centers and one private pharmacy. There is a dentist in the village that provides private services. The community has expressed its need for access to a public dental service within the village. For secondary and tertiary services villagers go to Dragash/š, Prizren and Prishtina/Priština. There are some vulnerable villagers such as the elderly and those disabled by disease or handicaps. They require a doctor or nurse to make home visits and this service is currently not provided by the Public Family Health Centre.

### Education

There is one public primary school in the village which has three dependent satellite schools in three surrounding villages: Brrut/Brut, Kapre/Kapra, and Zym/Zjum. This school in Bellobrad/Belobrod has 35 teachers working in two shifts and about 200 students (from pre-school to the 9th grade). Currently there are about 50 students (boys and girls in similar rate) from Bellobrad/Belobrod receiving secondary education in Dragash/š or Prizren (most of the students go to Prizren because there are more subjects to study than in Dragash/š, where there are only three subjects to choose from). The lack of continuity with

secondary and further levels of education, especially for girls, is mainly due to societal restrictions, lack of future prospects, and economic constraints (transport, fees and educational material costs).

Despite recent investments more resources are needed in the form of furniture and equipment for the schools and further efforts are needed to improve the infrastructure (school annex). The library walls require repair along with the provision of more furniture and educational materials (new books). Furthermore, not all teachers are qualified and refreshment trainings or courses would be certainly enhancing the quality of education provided.



### Environment

Some of plants and trees more commonly found in the area are beech, oak and pine. The area boasts natural beauty; however, it is scarred by the pollution of the river and inappropriate practices of waste disposal that are negatively affecting the environment. There is limited environmental awareness among the population and the impact of non sustainable environmental practices has. This affects not only the health of the population but has also a detrimental effect on the potential for local economic development (limited tourism, loss of flora and fauna and soil contamination).

\*Among other exercises that were done with Working Groups, in order to identify risks and resources of communities and Municipality, the visioning exercise was also part of the entire participatory planning cycle.





## Basic Services and Infrastructures

*“In the future we see Bellobrad/Belobrod as a village with a good and functional infrastructure, where public services are accessible to every villager” (Visioning exercise).*

60 % of the village is supplied by private water reservoirs, while 40% of the village is being supplied by the village reservoir which, is in bad condition, therefore villagers have water supply problems in the form of reductions at certain times of the day. The quality of water of the village reservoir was tested 6 years ago by a university and the results showed that the water should be treated prior to human consumption. Technical support and infrastructural investment would be required for resolving this issue.



Despite the availability of a private waste collection company providing services once a week, due to lack of awareness and economic constraints, several families in the village dispose of their waste in the river. As stated before, this fact not only affects the river and pollutes the environment but also has impacts on the health of the villagers (infective diseases, especially among children). There are not enough waste bins present and many people passing through to reach other villages throw their garbage out the car windows.

The sewage system covers almost the entire village and is in relatively good condition, but the main problem is the lack of treatment for waste waters (septic tank). Waste waters are discharged into the river, and while there are a few villages in the municipality that have septic tanks, there is no water waste treatment system.

Most of the population in the village pays the public company KEK for electricity. The electricity system covers the entire village but has low voltage.

Regarding communication systems, there is no cable TV or landline telephone system and the population therefore uses cell phones. Bellobrad/Belobrod is one of the few villages that have a post office. There is an Internet connection available (approximately 10% of families have access in their homes).

Even though there is no public transport service, there are private transport services providing regular schedules and good traveling conditions. The roads are generally in good condition, however there is a lack of streetlights, traffic signs and speed bumps.

There are no public open air spaces for social interaction, children and youth entertainment, or community recreational activities.

## Identity and Culture

As in all the surrounding villages in the Opoja region, Bellobrad/Belobrod celebrates different pagan holidays that are related to the beginning of spring and the joy of life. These holidays are celebrated mainly by young girls who follow various cultural rituals such as cutting the hair near the river, coloring eggs, walking in the fields, burning a fire and so on. The villagers give great importance to the engagement, wedding and circumcision celebrations.



There are a few landmarks in the village that have cultural and historical value. There is very old wool processing plant which is no longer being used. There is also a very old mill still able to process corn, wheat and oat, but is seldom used.



# Blač Bljac

**Hospitality, generosity,  
culture, work and tradition**

*"We want the youth to be educated including boys and girls. We envision Blač/Bljac with a developed economy. But we also want the natural resources of the village to be sustainably developed" (Visioning exercise\*).*





### Blac Women Working Group

- Fadilete Nebiu**
- Ardiana Aliu**
- Edina Halimi**
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### Blac Women Working Group

- |                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Naser Meleqi</b>       | education   |
| <b>Xhafer Nebiu</b>       | economy     |
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| <b>Vetim Ramadani</b>     | youth       |

# BLAÇ/BLJAĆ: Hospitality, generosity, culture, work and tradition

*“We want the youth to be educated including boys and girls. We envision Blaç/Bljać with a developed economy. But we also want the natural resources of the village to be sustainably developed” (Visioning exercise\*).*



*Major investments needed in Blaç/Bljać, as indicated by the Blaç/Bljać people, comprise investment in infrastructure, education, job creating, and health services.*

*Particular wishes expressed concerned:*

Facilitation of access to secondary education and organized trainings and programmes for youth

- Creation of job opportunities for girls and women; organizing of hairdressing and other vocational training courses for girls and women
- Enhanced primary health services

- Decreased environment pollution
- Establishment of collection point for agriculture products
- Rehabilitation of the water system
- Rehabilitation of the sewage system

## Introduction to the territory

*‘Blaç/Bljać is a village within the area of Opoja. It has three neighborhoods, beautiful houses, wide and clean roads. The people from this village are hospitable and hard working. The youth is well organized and very active’ (Visioning Exercise).*

Blaç/Bljać is located in the north of Dragash/š Municipality with an altitude of 1100 meters

above sea level. The main physical infrastructure and sites for social, religious, and economic activities and public services are the main square, the river, a mosque, several grocery shops, four coffee shops, a health centre, the school, a sports field, and a youth centre.

\*Among other exercises that were done with the Working Groups, in order to identify risks and resources of communities and Municipality, the visioning exercise was also part of the entire participatory planning cycle.







There are about 1900 inhabitants, 52% women and 48% men. There are 200 houses in Blaç/Bljaç and about 10% of them are uninhabited due to economic migration of part of the population in search of job opportunities

in other countries. Most of the inhabitants within the village work in subsistence agriculture, and formal jobs are scarce. The unemployment rate is high, accounting for about 65% of the population.

<b>Land Area</b>	9.6 Km2
<b>Estimated Population</b>	1900inhabitants (52%women, 48%men)
<b>Estimated Rate of Employment</b>	35%; 30 % men 5% women
<b>Sector</b>	15% private; 20% public
<b>School Drop-out Age</b>	Men 18 years and Women 15 years
<b>Illiteracy Rate</b>	Men 2% and Women 4%

## Priority sectors for development

### Local Economic Development

Potatoes, beans, wheat and barley were cultivated in the past in much larger amounts than today. At present most of the land is used for pasture or grass for animal fodder. The number of the families that are engaged in agriculture has decreased because it is not a profitable activity for villagers, who consider it cheaper to buy agriculture products in the market than to cultivate themselves. However some families continue to cultivate products such as beans and potatoes, but only for personal consumption.



10-15 families collect blueberries and sell them to individual buyers mainly from Prizren and Gjakova/Djakovica, who come

to the village to buy the collected blueberries. The price of the blueberries varies annually, dependent on the quantity of the blueberries available in the mountains each season. In 2010 the price for 1kg was 1.20-1.50 Euros. Even though blueberries are abundant, it is not so easy to collect them, mainly because the roads going to mountain areas are in bad condition.

80% of the villagers, both men and women, deal with livestock. 90% of the families have cows (around 300 in total) and 2 families have 100 sheep each, from which they get milk, produce cheese and obtain meat. An average of 10 liters of milk is collected per day, per cow. Although there are two milk collection centers near Blaç/Bljaç (in Buzecz/Buzec and Bresanë/Brodosavce), most of the dairy products produced are used for personal consumption, as the price of milk and cheese is too low to make it worthwhile to transport these goods to the collection centre or to the market. The price paid for the milk in Bresanë/Brodosavce milk collection center is 0.25 cents per liter. Cows and compost are also expensive and therefore the number of cows has been decreasing. The lack of proper roads makes it risky getting to the mountains where the cattle are on pasture. Based on all the above mentioned reasons many villagers are selling their cows, calves and sheep within the village and in the surrounding villages, especially in Bresanë/Brodosavce village at a good price.

*“We also want a developed economy where the natural resources of the village are used in a sustainable way. We envision Blaç/Bljaç as a developed agricultural area” (Visioning exercise).*



6 families are engaged in beekeeping producing 4,000 kg of honey annually. Depending on the season, the queen bee, and the weather, a beehive can provide around 25 kg a year. On average, 1 kg is sold for 7 Euros. While the Beekeeping Association of Kosovo exists, beekeepers in Blaç/Bljaç receive no support from it.



In the village there are seven businesses that produce and sell plastic, metal and wooden doors, employing 8-10 people within Blaç/Bljaç. The employees are all qualified for their respective jobs. There are also two construction companies that bring construction materials to Blaç/Bljaç and sell their goods there and elsewhere in other villages.

There are two commercial seamstresses, one works in the village, the other in Dragash/š. There are other villagers where people sew for themselves. There are women engaged in craftwork, including producing items for brides and items for sale; however these are sold at very low prices in Prizren.

Regarding tourism, there are non-functioning mountains trails that the villagers would like to re-open as the village location is advantageous in accessing other villages in the region. Trails along the hillsides, towards Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje, towards Bresanë/Brodosavce, and southeast of the village could possibly be further developed.

Blaç/Bljaç's Community Youth Center can be used as a great informational resource center for foreigners, as the English skills of the staff are good. This Centre could be a reference point for inter-village cooperation for tourist support when hiking or travelling in Opoja region. Local shops have food, water, and other supplies available to tourists.

However at this time, the tourist potential for the village is still not fully clear. Accommodation services, for example, still pose a challenge.

### Health

There is one public primary health care center with 4 equipped rooms. The doctor works part-time, one morning a week, as he also works in the Bellobrad/Belobrod health center. There are two private doctors who work in private centers. Although there are more doctors originally from Blaç/Bljaç, most of them work in Prizren. For emergencies Blaç/Bljaç's villagers travel to Bresanë/Brodosavce village in private vehicles (approximately 10 km distance). There are no public gynecological or pediatric services provided in the village; for these services villagers go to Dragash/š town.

### Education

There is a public primary school and 90% of the inhabitants of Blaç/Bljaç have finished primary school (male and female); 60% have middle or high school education and 25% have attended university. In general terms girls do not continue their secondary studies, and very few girls go to university. This is mainly due





to societal restrictions placed on girls and women who are socialized for marriage and to be housewives, contributing to the domestic economy. Economic limitations further hinder educational access and parents are unwilling to invest in their daughters' education due to the cost of transport and other education-related expenses when they see no prospects for the girls in having an education.



The school building is in general terms in good condition. Recently some infrastructural improvements were made such as the installation of heating and new furniture. However the school is still in need of further improvements in infrastructure, materials and quality of teaching methods. An indoor sport hall is needed for the physical education classes and a park or school garden for children. Minor rehabilitation works are also needed to fix the leaking roof and some broken windows.

Youth in the village is very active. Recently a youth centre has been set up (thanks to the support of Caritas and Fisniket and Doradores NGOs) and is providing English language courses attended not only by boys but also by girls. Thanks to this center, the youth have a place to meet and interact, access the internet and engage in the organization of cultural activities such as the "movie week". The youth center has substantial potential to further develop, organize and implement activities.

*"We want the youth, including boys and girls, to be educated"* (Visioning exercise).



### Environment

The natural environment in Blaç/Bljaç is rich in pastures, beautiful surrounding mountains and fresh air. The air is composed of about 78% nitrogen which favors the cultivation of plants. Different wild fruits can be collected in the surrounding areas.

Unfortunately the environment is being polluted by the detrimental waste disposal. Raising awareness of the population of the importance of the environmental sustainability is needed.

### Basic Services and Infrastructures

There is a water system that provides coverage to all the houses, but it is old and in need of repairs. Services for water system maintenance are not being provided and the water distribution system is not good. Even though the pipe network collecting water from the mountain spring into a pool has a good capacity (wide pipes), the pipe network within the village uses smaller pipes. Therefore the quantity of water received in the houses is not enough. Four families each have a personal pool for collecting water.

Solid waste collection services are provided in the village, but due to a price increase some villagers with limited environmental awareness refuse to pay and dispose of the garbage into the river. Therefore, as previously stated, there is an important need to raise the awareness on the importance of a sustainable environment among the population in order



to strengthen the commitment of the whole community.

There is no sewage network, therefore household waste is removed individually and disposed of in the river. Services to provide waste water treatment and disposal are therefore needed.

The roads in the village are in general in good condition but this is not the case with the roads that lead to the fields or mountains. These are in very bad condition making it very difficult to access the arable lands and mountain sites, rich with natural fruits and herbs.

There is electricity system that covers the entire village.

*‘Within 10 years we see Blaç/Bljaç as a village with developed and improved infrastructure; including good roads, a better water system, a sewage system, a clean environment free from illegal waste disposal, and a park for wild animals and spaces for picnics’ (Visioning exercise).*

### **Culture and Identity**

A number of celebrations relating to the beginning of the spring season take place in the village. For Verëza, on the eve of the 13<sup>th</sup> of March children sit around a big fire, and the following day they paint eggs and exchange them with each other. A traditional food called ‘Flija’ is also cooked for this day. On the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of May Shën Gjergji is

celebrated, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May Jeremia and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, Shën Kolli. ‘



*‘Our development goals can be achieved with the hard work of every villager, an increase of the professional capacities and awareness on different issues. Also by developing different programs and ideas for the overall development of the village’ (Visioning Exercise).*









# Brod Brod

**A place to live in.**

*This small village is a key entrance-way into the Sharr/Šar Mountains' most enriching views and landscapes: Dragash/s' most undiscovered territory (Visioning Exercise\*).*



### Brod Women Working Group

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<b>Raba Kamberi</b>	housewife	<b>Meljaeta Hadzija</b>	housewife
<b>Nazifa Bajgora</b>	housewife	<b>Aniva Ajmani</b>	housewife
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<b>Safija Mamdok</b>	housewife	<b>Bojga Burcul</b>	housewife
<b>Ata Lika</b>	housewife	<b>Ajsa Maznikar</b>	housewife
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### Brod Men Working Group

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<b>Cenan Skenderoski</b>	health
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<b>Damir Maznikar</b>	youth/ NGO

# BROD: A place to live in.

*This small village is a key entrance-way into the Sharr/Šar Mountains' most enriching views and landscapes: Dragash/š's most undiscovered territory (Visioning Exercise\*).*

*Major investments needed in Brod, as indicated by the Brod people, comprise investment in infrastructure, education and job creation. Particular priorities expressed concerned*



- Improvement of the village road infrastructure
- Enhance the quality of the education

- Develop ecotourism potential in the village
- Rehabilitation of the riverbed

## Introduction to the territory

Brod is located in the southern part of Dragash/š Municipality, 12 km from the Dragash/š town centre. It is close to the border of FYROM and is located in the valley of the Sharr/Šar mountain peaks with an altitude of 1200m. Three rivers flow through Brod: Gorno Mauska Reka, Leva Reka and a stream, Šntinica.

Beyond Brod there are breathtaking routes through mountains where lakes, flower filled fields and open terrain will amaze visitors. The mountain is filled with fields of juniper and other herbal plants and can be easily found on the outskirts of the village. July and August are the blueberry collection months when majority of the residents are collecting

these berries as it provides additional income for supplementing the family budget. The quantity that can be found depends on the seasonal conditions. Apart from blueberries, various other plants can be found on the outskirts of the Brod Mountains such as juniper, hellebore, pheasant's eye (*Adonis Vernalis*), and animal species such as chamois and lammergeyer.

Depopulation of settlements is a widespread fact all over Kosovo, especially in rural areas, and even more so in the villages (Brod, Dikanc/Dikance, Mlikë/Mlike), located in the Brod river valley.

\*Among other exercises that were done with the Working Groups, in order to identify risks and resources of communities and Municipality, the visioning exercise was also part of the entire participatory planning cycle.







Most of the people who leave their villages go to look for a job abroad (mainly to FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia) or move to the main cities within Kosovo.

Brod village has approximately 650 households (only 200 inhabited in winter), and about 1,000 inhabitants; during the summer the

number of the habitants increases to 2,500. Approximately 40% of the population is male and 60% is female. The youth represents one third of village population. About 20 % of the population (all men) is employed (not including seasonal jobs).

<b>Land Area</b>	4,2 Km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Estimated Population</b>	1,000 inhabitants (60% women, 40% men)
<b>Estimated Rate of Employment</b>	20% men 0,1% women
<b>Sector</b>	10% Public sector; 10% private sector
<b>School Drop-out Age</b>	18 years (boys) 15 years (girls)
<b>Illiteracy Rate</b>	1% Women; 0% Men

## Priority sectors for development

### Local Economic Development

There are around 120 cows, owned by 5 families that produce 15 tons of cheese annually and 2,500 sheep, owned by 6 families, producing cheese for sale and personal consumption. Only 10 out of 200 households are dedicated to cheese production. Calf meat is processed in a small shop.



The agricultural production is currently mainly for personal consumption; since limited equipment and economic possibilities exist to develop these activities commercially. Therefore, supporting the villagers with the exchange and sharing of ideas and equipment to cultivate different products would facilitate the development of agricultural production. Half of the population of the village collects blueberries in the summer season (2 months). Approximately 100 tons are collected each summer and taken to Dragash/š, but sold at a low and variable price. Ten families collect herbs and produce teas for personal usage.

Organizing the collection and transport of wild fruits and herbal plants would assist the villagers in increasing their incomes generated by these activities.

There are 3 families that work in beekeeping that produce an average 500 kg a year (sold at 8-10 Euros per kilo).

Brod has great ecotourism potential opportunities including bird watching, hiking, mountain biking, roaming alongside wandering sheep, seeing wild goats idly walking along the highest peaks or even horseback riding. There may even be the chance to catch a glimpse of endangered animals such as the lynx or scattering wolves. These are just some of the possibilities that are available to those who visit Brod.

The fully constructed Hotel “Arxhena” is the only hotel in Dragash/š working at full capacity. The hotel restaurant and the Restaurant “Ramće” along the river are solid businesses for supporting ecotourism. Also, in the village there are several shops available for tourists to buy water, drinks, food and other goods.

There is potential for more growth with winter tourism, as there is a local ski slope and currently a plan to construct a lift up the single slope.

The old trade routes and roads to FYROM and the current paths herders use with sheep, cows, and horses are safe and easy to use as trails for hiking. There are also countless

small glacial lakes, a geyser, some caves, a water spring, a canyon called Steska, and rare wildlife in the mountains to attract sightseers. However, there are some important challenges regarding ecotourism promotion. A municipal strategy that identifies the main actions to tackle the weaknesses is crucial for success in promoting the comprehensive development of ecotourism. Raising awareness among the population for environmental sustainability and for the cleaning of rivers and mountains would further facilitate the increase of tourism, and of course benefit nature conservation. Strengthening tourism and management skills of some villagers in terms of language skills, tourism management and so on, is also an important challenge.

### Health

Brod has one small primary health care centre or “ambulance”. It is staffed by a doctor from Brod twice a week and a technician throughout the week. Therefore the public medical services offered to the population are not sufficient, especially for vulnerable groups such as disabled people. At the women’s request a gynecologist should attend the centre at least twice a month. The most common diseases are heart attacks and cancer of the breast and ovaries.

### Education

*“Gender empowerment is an area that needs to be addressed. One of the most crucial needs is to create greater employment options for both men and women so that the potential of the village is usefully channeled to revert in the community development, reversing the depopulation trends”* (Visioning exercise).

There is one primary school in the village. There are different shifts for the two systems of education; the Kosovo system, and the Serbian parallel system. In the Serbian shift there are 80 pupils and 14 teachers. In the Kosovo system there are 34 pupils and 14 teachers (2 female teachers in each of the systems). The male students after completing primary school attend secondary schooling Dragash/š. There are computers in the school (5 in use).

All of the inhabitants of Brod have finished primary school (male and female); 50% have

completed secondary school (almost all males) and 30% are at university level (all males). Promoting access to medium and higher education levels, especially for girls, is crucial.

The need for qualified teachers for specific subjects is required in both systems. One third of the teachers in the Serbian system are qualified, while there are no qualified teachers in the Kosovo system. However, some teachers are currently finalizing studies to obtain qualification. In the school year 2011/12 there will be cadre of teachers with university degree, specialized for primary school program up to the ninth grade.

With regards to teaching materials (textbooks), students attending education as per the Kosovo curriculum receive free textbooks up to the ninth grade, while in the parallel Serbian system there are not enough textbooks, editions are outdated and are not used in Serbia.

Some investment have been made into the infrastructure of the primary school but further efforts are still required for educational materials (books, video projectors, maps) and subject specific equipment for biology, music, physics and social science. The access to information and communication technologies is limited.

### Environment

*“There is a need of trainings for awareness increase on environment pollution and water management. Capacity development is crucial”* (Visioning exercise).



Brod is situated between three rivers. Stone houses surrounded by a beautiful green landscape, fresh air, wild fruits and herbs make the surrounding environment of the village very rich and healthy.

However the one point of concern that diminishes the natural beauty of Brod is waste





thrown in the river. This is a consequence of limited awareness of environmental issues, waste collection and recycling among the villagers and the lack of waste collection services provided to the village, by either public or private companies.

### Infrastructure and Basic Services

*“The most important priorities for Brod are those of waste and water management. This village suffers as a result of poor management of both, combined with a lack of awareness of the population on how this affects them. Children suffer from water borne diseases and very poor families cannot afford to drink clean water”* (Visioning exercise).

According to the villagers the actual situation of Brod is a paradox, because Brod lies between three rivers and the population still suffers from a lack of water. The water system is more than 30 years old and is in need of urgent improvement. There are no services for water system management or maintenance. Even though Brod is located in breathtaking beautiful natural surroundings, waste covers much of the river, especially at the village entrance. The view and the smell at the village entrance provide further impetus to call for waste collection and awareness. The lack of provision of public or private services on waste collection is mainly due to the high cost that the population would have to pay for this service. The current company providing services of waste collection in the Opoja region needs to charge a higher fee due to the geographic location of Brod and the long distance between the village and the dump site.



The peripheral situation of Brod, the limited road connections to other villages and the

lack of public transport services, increase the development challenges that are present in the territory. The bad conditions of roads, lack of street lights and speed limit signs, create an unsafe transportation environment within the village.

The electricity system in place covers the entire village but the voltage is low. Social services (social welfare assistance) are provided to those villagers who are most vulnerable. No legal assistance or labor promotion services are available within village.

### Identity and Culture

The village is more than 500 years old and there are some beautiful old stone houses. The villagers speak a dialect of Gorani language that is unique to this village as it is not spoken in other Gorani speaking villages.



One of the most popular festivals is the spring festival. There are some local and traditional stories orally passed on such as that of the water spring called Brides spring. The story states that due to the beauty of the water coming from the rocks, once upon a time a bride stopped by it, enchanted by its beauty and the spring consumed her. The documented information relating to the history, culture, and tradition of Brod village is very old. Organizing different cultural activities within the village and cooperating with other Gora and Opoja villages would be a good opportunity to support and strengthen the linkages among the settlements and promote cultural exchanges.

*“Development should be sustainable, keeping in mind protecting the culture heritage. The village identity should be protected against potential damages that could be caused by international market”* (Visioning exercise).





# Brrut Brut

**Welcome to the balcony of Opoja.**

*“The geographic position of Brrut/Brut allows watching all Opoja region and Prizren. Brrut/Brut is one of the oldest villages in Opoja. There are natural and cultural beauties with pastures, forests, a cave, and some very old cemeteries. Brrut/Brut has a lot of potentialities for tourism development” (Visioning Exercise).*





**Brrut Local  
Working  
Group**

- Skender Nebiu**
- Femi Selmani**
- Agim Aliu**
- Jeton Ramadani**
- Ibrahim Skender**
- Elez Elezi**
- Faton Bilalli**
- Nazyf Skenderi**
- Blerim Halimi**
- Hazer Dana**
- Linda Skender**
- Sara Ramadani**

- Coordinator: education
- education
- architect/culture/youth
- agriculture
- culture
- education
- projection
- religion
- gastronomy
- environment
- youth
- youth

# BRRUT/BRUT: Welcome to the balcony of Opoja.

*“The geographic position of Brrut/Brut allows watching all Opoja region and Prizren. Brrut/Brut is one of the oldest villages in Opoja. There are natural and cultural beauties with pastures, forests, a cave, ad some very old cemeteries. Brrut/Brut has a lot of potentialities for tourism development” (Visioning Exercise).*



*Major investments needed in Brrut/Brut, as indicated by the Brrut/Brut people, comprise investment in economic development and job creation, infrastructure and education. Particular wishes expressed concerned*

- Improved potatoe cultivation methods and construction of a small factory for processing potatoe products
- Organized collection of wild fruits
- Rehabilitation of small farms and construction of a milk processing facility
- Rehabilitation of the “Sezai Surroi” satellite primary school (garden, sport field and road)
- Rehabilitation of the water system

## Introduction to the territory

Brrut/Brut is located in the northern part of the Sharr Mountain and it is one of the oldest villages in Opoja. It has a total land area of 8, 4 km<sup>2</sup>, an altitude of 1100m, and shares borders with the villages of Bellobrad/Belobrod, Buzez/Buzec, Zgatar, Bresanë/Brodosavce, and with the town of Prizren. Three rivers flow through Brrut/Brut: Zinova, Tenova, and the Village River. Of the total land area of Brrut/Brut, 30% is arable land, 10% wasteland, and the remaining part makes up mountains and pastures.

The geographic position of Brrut/Brut is of much significance as the entire Opoja region and Prizren can be seen from the village. In Brrut/Brut there are about 140 houses and 1,500 inhabitants, all Albanians and Muslims. Approximately 48% of the population is male and 52% female. The youth represents

50% of village population. About 10% of the population is employed, 5% in the private sector and 5% in the public sector. Only about a 0, 3% of the employed people are women. The majority of the population is unemployed. This has lead to about 30% (400 people) of Brrut/Brut’s population living and working abroad.

*“Brrut/Brut has an interesting potential for tourism development” (Visioning Exercise).* The village has an abundance of natural and cultural beauties such as pastures, forests, a cave, and some very old and interesting cemeteries.



WELCOME TO THE BALCONY OF OPOJA.



<b>Land Area</b>	8,4 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Estimated Population</b>	1,500 inhabitants (52% women, 48% men)
<b>Estimated Rate of Employment</b>	10% (0,3% women)
<b>Specialization</b>	10% of population employed; 5% in private sector, 5% in public sector
<b>School Drop-out Age</b>	Men 18 years and women 15 years
<b>Illiteracy rate</b>	Men 1% Women 2%

## Priority sectors for development

### Local Economic Development

The quality of arable land is good. Potatoes and beans are cultivated for personal use. To increase agricultural production it would be highly beneficial to carry out an assessment of the soil and environmental conditions to determine what products are most suited to the climate and what investments are required to increase cultivation, such as new varieties of seeds, an irrigation system, equipments, tools, materials and relevant trainings.

Brrut/Brut has an abundance of hazelnuts, junipers, cornels, wild apples, plums and blackberries, which are collected by over 30 families. In the forest of Brrut/Brut village and in the surrounding fields live different wild animals such as: wolf, fox, boar, rabbit, bear, roe, wild cat, eagle, squirrel, sparrowhawk, owl, crow, mountain bird etc.

There are 200 cows. Cheese, butter and yogurt are produced as well as meat for family consumption.

There are five families involved in beekeeping. They sell an average of 200-250kg of honey annually per family (equaling approximately 100 beehives) at an average price of 7 Euros per kilo. This is sold both within the village and outside the village.

Access to the market is very challenging. There is no specific market for agricultural, meat and dairy products and so these items are sold amongst many various other products in the market in Dragash/š and for very low prices. Lack of subventions and the unequal competition of the imported goods are important problems regarding to agriculture development.

There are 5 small businesses that produce and sell plastic, metal and wooden doors and windows. These products are mostly sold

within Brrut/Brut and the municipality. Many of the elderly women in Brrut/Brut are skilled in making different clothes such as traditional bridal garments, items for home decoration, wool clothes and such, for everyday use and for special occasions such as weddings. Some items are sold to girls that are going to get married including shirts, which are sold for a very good price. The products are also sold in Prizren.



Brrut/Brut has a major tourist attraction in archeological remnants of the Illyrian Age. There is a castle, some caverns, old dwellings, cemeteries, artifacts and other interesting historic sites. Apart from that, the village can be appealing to the tourist for its natural beauty, cultural heritage and traditional dances and songs. There are great trails past the village for hiking and mountain biking. There is an area currently being used for picnicking and which has abilities to foster continual camping and other recreational activities. A few shops are available in the village useful for travelers passing through; as well, the local cafes and restaurants that could be suitable eating places for day travelers.

An assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the village would assist in further determining the tourism potential of the area. For example, there are limited services and



a lack of accommodation options. Although there are some people that are willing to start providing tourism services, there are not many villagers with the appropriate skills to manage such an activity, which would include language skills, management of tourist activities, and so on). Awareness campaigns should be carried out among the population on environmental sustainability and actions taken to reduce waste disposal in the fields, mountains and rivers.

### Health

There is no health centre in the village. The closest facility is in Bellobrad/Belobrod (1.2 km away from Brrut/Brut), to which villagers walk or drive to access primary medical assistance, except for gynecological or pediatric services which are not available in Bellobrad/Belobrod. For secondary health services villagers travel to Dragash/š town (15kms away from Brrut/Brut). There is a new private pharmacy.

### Education

The village school is a satellite school of Bellobrad/Belobrod “Sezai Surroi” primary school and has 120 students, 6 teachers, and 2 assistants. The school is composed of two buildings, one for pre-school and first grade education and the other for grades 2-5. For grades 6-9, children have to go to the school located in Bellobrad/Belobrod. After finishing primary school, the students (mainly the boys) go to Dragash/š or Prizren for high school.

All of the inhabitants of Brrut/Brut have finished primary school (male and female); 25-30% have finished middle or high school (male and female), and 10% university (mainly male).

Some investments have been made into the appearance of the school during 2009 and 2010 (new windows and garden fence). Nevertheless to enhance the quality of education and make it more responsive to the needs of the population there is a need for further improvement of the infrastructure, materials and skills of teachers. This could include, for example, rehabilitation works, construction of a sport fields, equipment for

pre-school, and school material for primary education. There is also limited access to information and communication technologies and other educational materials.



### Environment

Forest resources present in Dragash/š are crucially important for environmental protection, water protection and biodiversity as well for the economy of local communities. The majority of biodiversity in Kosovo as well in Dragash/š is accruing in forest, so during forest operation one should be giving priority to biodiversity protection, water bodies and wildlife. Spatial concern regarding biodiversity should be given to protect especially the Bosnian pine.

The dumping of waste into the natural environment continues to be a problem, which apart from causing environmental degradation, is a hindrance to tourism development. However the situation of waste disposal has improved, since most of the population of the village is now aware of the impact of this practice and has contracted the services of a waste collection company.

The elimination of the illegal dump sites, building septic holes for waste waters (50% of the waste waters are thrown directly in river) and stopping the intentional burning of garbage and fields, remain to be important environment problems.





### **Basic Services and Infrastructure**

There is an old water system that was constructed in 1970; the quality of this water was tested 5 years ago by a team from Prizren who determined that it was unfit for human consumption unless boiled. Apart from that, the actual water spring does not provide sufficient amounts of water especially during the summer (July, August, and September) when the villagers have to deal with long hours of water shortages. It would be beneficial to carry out an assessment on the options available to improve the water supply systems and to identify potential new water sources (technical assistance needed).

The construction of a sewage system has started in part of the village but only one area of the village has septic tanks. There is not a waste water treatment system.

Although waste collection services are being provided once a week, some people who consider the fee for this service to be too expensive still dispose of the waste in the river.

The electricity system covers the entire village.

There is no public transport. In order to take a bus to Dragash/š or Prizren the villagers have to take a 30 minutes' walk to Bellobrad/Belobrod where transportation may be found. However 90% of families in Brrut/Brut have a private car. There is no firefighter

service within the village. Everyone uses a mobile telephone since there are no landlines installed. There is also no public TV network provided in the village.

### **Identity and Culture**

Cultural celebrations include horse races, traditional music and dancing. Some of the main festivals are Verëza or Spring Festival on the 14th of March during which a big fire is set up and a traditional food "Flija" is cooked. Others include the Harvesting festival for cutting crops, Jeremia, Shën Kolli, Shiri Budi and St. George Day.

Apart from this, in Brrut/Brut there are traditional ethnologic tools such as shaft, waver etc, which were used to make traditional clothes and perform everyday activities. While this is not done anymore, there are still some people who know the skill. Some of the villagers also have special seeds which were used to make a type of dress and to make oil colors for painting.

The pervasive impact of the "modern European culture" on the youth (music, fashion etc) through the media is threatening the perpetuation of traditional cultural values and heritage.

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\* Flija- usually prepared outside on top of hot coals, in a large round pan, this multi-layered pancake or crepe is cooked one layer at a time, when one layer has been heated long enough another layer of flour, water, and oil is poured on. The final layered crepe is eaten with a side of yogurt, jam and sometimes peppers.



# Restelicë Restelica

## The pearl of the Sharr/Šar Mountains

*'There are a lot of beautiful mountains, fresh and clean air, and rivers in Restelica/Restelicë. This part of the municipality is also known for the Sharr/Šar dog and cheese. People are very hospitable. The women and girls of this village are hard working; they make very beautiful handicrafts. There are a lot of resources for summer and winter tourism development. Different wild fruits and herbs grow here. Restelica/Restelicë is known for conserving the Gorani culture and for the interesting wedding rituals' (Visioning Exercise).*



### **Restelica Women Working Group**

**Selima Kusi**  
**Vajza Kusi**  
**Mamudija Reka**  
**Mejrema Kusi**  
**Ramiza Reka**  
**Zejnepa Muska**  
**Mamudija Muska**

**Rabisa Ese**  
**Fatima Ese**  
**Vesima Kusi**  
**Ese Rajma**  
**Bejza Selfa**  
**Selfa Kusi**



### **Restelica Men Working Group**

**Veljid Hadzisin** - coordinator  
**Selves Bajmak**  
**Bajrma Hodza**  
**Serif Aga**  
**Nesim Hodza**  
**Beadin Coko**

**Murat Muska**  
**Mirsad Aga**  
**Jusuf Hodza**  
**Ahmet Bajmak**  
**Nail Muska**



# Restelicë/Restelica: The pearl of the Sharr/Šar Mountains

*'There are a lot of beautiful mountains, fresh and clean air, and rivers in Restelica/Restelicë. This part of the municipality is also known for the Sharr/Šar dog and cheese. People are very hospitable. The women and girls of this village are hard working; they make very beautiful handicrafts. There are a lot of resources for summer and winter tourism development. Different wild fruits and herbs grow here. Restelica/Restelicë is known for conserving the Gorani culture and for the interesting wedding rituals' (Visioning Exercise).*



*Major investments needed in Restelica/Restelicë, as indicated by the Restelica/Restelicë people, comprise investment in infrastructure, education and job creation. Particular wishes expressed concerned*

- Improvement of the secondary education conditions in the village
- Organization of Albanian language courses for adults
- Organization of courses on CCNA, CISCO and CTT Java programs
- Construction of an office for community services
- Improved waste collection and recycling possibilities
- Rehabilitation of the water system
- Expansion and construction of a road leading to the place called Jelice
- Market research and identification of the market for meat and milk products;
- Establishment of facilities for mushrooms and worms cultivation
- Development of ecotourism activities
- Supply of the medical family health centre with appropriate equipment
- Development of village culture; Production of a movie on traditional Gorani culture

## Introduction to the territory

Restelicë/Restelica is located in the southern part of Dragash/š Municipality, and has a thick forest cover and a river. It is close to the border of FYROM and is a key village at the entrance way of the Sharr/Šar Mountain's most enriching views and landscapes. There are countless small glacial lakes in the mountains to attract sightseers.

Based on the official figures from the

Statistical Office of Kosovo there were more than 600 households in Restelica/Restelicë in 2008 . In 1961 the number of households registered in Restelica/Restelicë were less than 300. Clearly the village settlement has grown significantly, and in fact has experiences the highest settlement growth within the municipality. This is thanks both to its geographic positioning being nearer the







high mountain pastures and southern trade route to FYROM, and also due to the high number of diaspora sending remittances to the village.

The estimated resident population is 4,000 (49% male and 51 % female) and the youth represent 20% of the population. Approximately 3,500 people (around 95% men and 5% women) work outside of Restelica/Restelicë, mainly abroad. Only about 10 % of the population in Restelica/Restelicë is employed (8.3% men, 1, 7%

women). The main source of employment is livestock breeding and agriculture. Most women are housewives engaged in domestic work.

The main infrastructure in the village includes an elementary and primary school, a public primary health care center, one mosque and two internet cafes. There are few and low scale private initiatives providing services and goods (handicrafts, locksmiths, carpenters, civil engineers, electricians and so on).

<b>Land Area</b>	3,5 Km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Estimated Population</b>	4,000 inhabitants ( 51% women, 49% men)
<b>Estimated Rate of Employment</b>	Approximately 10% (8.3% men, 1.7% women)
<b>Sector</b>	5% public, 5% private
<b>School Drop-out Age</b>	Men 17 years (average) and Women 15 years (average)
<b>Illiteracy Rate</b>	Men 3% and Women 5% (over 70 years old)

## Priority sectors for development

### Local Economic Development

Blueberries, Dog Rose and different teas grow in the mountains. Women and children collect the blueberries for personal consumption. This is because the price paid for them in the market is too low to justify the transport costs and the lack of organization among the collectors makes access to market (in Dragash/š) unprofitable. Aside from this, people from nearby villages in Albania collect blueberries as well which does not leave much for Restelica/Restelicë villagers. However medical herbs and various exotic fruits, such as raspberry or wild strawberries, are good resources that have certification potential as healthy food (bio food).

Due to the climatic conditions the only crop that can be easily cultivated is potatoes.

There are 450 cows and about 3,000 sheep. Not everyone has a cow because the maintenance costs are high. Access to meadows is, in most cases, possible only on horses making it difficult to provide hay for cows. The hay is moved and collected manually and transported by horses.

50 tons of milk and 50 tons of meat are produced annually, and cheese is also produced. Milk is mainly for personal consumption. Nevertheless a certain quantity is sold to those



who do not have cows within the village. There was a Milk Collection Center but it recently closed due to low milk prices, transport expenses to Prizren and high maintenance costs. Quality control was related only to milk fat percentage. Part of the sheep wool is sold

and part is used for personal needs, but large portions are being thrown away due to lack of equipment for processing the wool and lack of market options for selling the wool.



There are 4 families involved in beekeeping, each with 10 beehives, selling honey in the village and to neighboring villages. Beekeeping holds much potential for promoting local economic development. Production could be improved and increased if more families were trained for and engaged in this profession.

Around 5 families are providing various private services (locksmiths, carpenters, ceramic workers, painters, electricians, plumbers and so on) and selling handicrafts (carpets, bed sheets, bed covers, waistcoats and national costumes). 5 families are involved in the construction business. The sand near the river is a construction material source, however harnessing this resource is not yet possible due to river pollution. In general terms the business sector could be enhanced if support were provided to establish business associations, to improve management capacities, and to access to new technologies and other equipment and infrastructure.

There is remarkable tourist potential in Restelica/Restelicë. Hiking, mountain biking, and even horseback riding are ideal tourist activities in the village. The old trade routes, roads, and current paths herders use with sheep, cows, and horses are safe and easy to use for hiking. The construction of the restaurant and hotel “Jelicë”, which is underway, will strengthen the capabilities of the village to supply Bed and Breakfast-style accommodation for tourists. Several shops in the village are also available for supplies,

such as water, food, drinks and others goods. It is important to formulate a comprehensive plan on tourism promotion, which includes among other actions, the strengthening of the management capacities of the population involved or who potentially could be involved in tourism-related activities.

To raise the awareness of the population of environmental sustainability is a challenge. Pollution of the river and mountains grows every year. This, apart from negatively affecting the environment, can negatively affect economic development such as through a negative impact on tourism.

*“Restelica/Restelicë will have developed winter and summer tourism and will be known for its natural resources especially Sharr/Šar dog and cheese’ (Visioning exercise).*

## Health

There is one primary public health care centre, one private health centre and one private pharmacy. Dental services are not provided in the public center. The centre consists of 3 main rooms, 1 small room and 2 toilets (one suitable for people with disabilities). A doctor and nurse work 8 hours a day and a third person maintains the health centre facility. Based on the population size of 4,000 another doctor should be appointed. There is no medical assistance outside of the working hours, and for public secondary or tertiary health services, villagers have to go to Dragash/š or Prizren.

A regular free vaccination service is carried out under the national health policy supported by Dragash/š municipality, and so most people are inoculated. Most common health ailments according to the villagers are scabies, meningitis and respiratory problems.

Taking into consideration the distance from Restelica/Restelicë to Dragash/š, it would be worthwhile investing in further medical equipment to diversify the health services provided in the Centre in Restelica/Restelicë (for example ultrasound equipment).

An office for women’s health education is necessary within the center and could be provided by the nurse employed by the Family Care Center in Dragash/š.





### Education

There is one public primary school with 600 students. There are 60 teachers who work two, four-hour shifts. Only 20 teachers out of the 60 are employed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo, while the rest work in the “parallel system” (dependent from Serbia). “*Within 10 years we see all villagers from Restelica/Restelicë united*” (Visioning exercise).

93% of the inhabitants of Restelica/Restelicë have finished primary school (male and female); 6 % have middle or high school education (mostly men) and 1% holds university degrees (all men). Currently, six male students attend a high school in Dragash/š. It is important to increase access to medium and higher education levels, especially for girls.

The infrastructure is in general, in good condition; however it needs maintenance and rehabilitation work to include a sports hall and repair of the roof. There is limited access to information and communication technologies and other educational materials as there is no library. There is a need for more professional teachers as only 25% (16) are qualified.

### Environment

“*Within 10 years we see Restelica/Restelicë as a modern, ecological, clean village, with sustainable developed economy and rural plan*” (Visioning Exercise).

Due to the geographic location of Restelica/Restelicë the waste collection service is more expensive than in other villages. This is one of the reasons why currently no public or private services on waste collection are being provided, and currently the villagers throw their garbage mainly in the river. Another important reason is the limited environmental awareness among the population.



*‘More work should be done on ecological and urban planning, develop ecotourism and create job opportunities so people do not abandon the village. It is crucial to have the support of the municipality regarding public services especially on education, waste and water management’ (Visioning Exercise).*



### Basic Services and Infrastructure

90% of the houses are connected to the water system. The remaining 10% are not catered for. There is an incomplete sewage system with 800 m of canalization.

Regarding waste, an attempt was made to contract a waste collection company but due to the peripheral location of Restelica/Restelicë the costs for the provision of the service were high. There is no company to collect the waste so it is dumped in the river.



Presently, Restelica/Restelicë is geographically isolated mainly due to the limited road network. Apart from the main road leading to Dragash/š town, the routes connecting to other villages located away from the main road are only suitable for pedestrians. The road to FYROM which is of great importance for livestock breeding and tourism is open but needs maintenance work as none has been undertaken since 1989. 90% of livestock-breeders use this road to go to their summer houses in the mountain.



The peripheral situation of Restelica/Restelicë, the limited road connections to other villages and the lack of public transport services, increase the development challenges that are present in the territory, especially those related to promotion of tourism and other economic activities, as well as access to markets.

There is lack of security (no permanent police services) at the border with FYROM, Albania and within the village. Cattle have been stolen; dozens of cows, horses and beehives have been stolen in the post-conflict period. There are illegal construction activities and illegal occupation of roads and public properties. To stop these activities the population needs to be made further aware of these issues.

The only means of communication in the village is through mobile network coverage and a few internet connections providing

services to about 30 houses. TV satellite coverage connects 40% of the houses and a Post Office would reduce the feeling of isolation of the population. There is no bank so mobile teams come to the village, and there is no civil registry office in the village, so residents have to travel to neighboring village Kruševo/Krushevë for obtaining legal documents.

The entire village is provided with electricity by KEK, but the voltage is insufficient. All villagers are paying the service.

*“Within 10 years we envision an improvement in the provision of all necessary public services for such a big village” (Visioning exercise).*

### Identity and Culture

Two of the most popular holidays are Eid and the Summer Days, celebrated by the youth. Weddings are celebrated especially in the summer season; most parts of the celebration are open to the public.



To preserve and promote cultural events and traditions has become a challenge due to budgetary constraints. Some investment in infrastructure is needed to promote culture and preserve identity. This could involve a cultural house, a museum or a library. Raising awareness of the importance of cultural preservation among the population is also a challenge.

i The information contained in this document is the result of the work of the Municipal Working Group. It is based on several research activities and studies conducted together with the Dragash/š Municipality, specifically: Spatial Analysis, Ministry of Environment and spatial planning, Institute for spatial planning, Municipality of Dragash/š and UNMIK, October 2006; Local Economic Development Strategy 2007-2011 (Nov, 2007), Municipality of Dragash/š, OSI, LGI, SDC, Riinvest; UN-Habitat preliminary study in view of the consultation regarding and elaboration of the Municipal Development Plan of Dragash/š Final as of 09/07/1010, UNDP Grant application for EU Rural grant, August 2010 and Dragash/š Municipal Development Agenda 2004-2006.

ii Since there is an absence of proper census, this figure was estimated by taking into consideration the natural growth of the population and of that in 2001, through which the Directorate of Emergency and Civil Security came to a figure of 42,692.





